



Jack Serious Case review

Learning Lessons



The story

Jack, a teenage boy living in the Bradford area had been sexually abused by multiple adult males, this abuse commenced when he was 13 years old after he came out as gay.

Agencies first became aware of the risk of sexual abuse in August 2010.

Two separate police investigations resulted in thirty-six adult male suspects being identified, twenty of whom have been convicted of various sexual offences and grooming offences against Jack.

Whilst there was significant multi-agency support for Jack, services were not effective in keeping him safe from abuse.

Consequently, there is evidence that Jack has experienced serious sexual, physical and emotional harm.



What went well

- **Jack's school provided a safe space**
- **GP's exhibited excellent awareness of safeguarding issues**
- **The BLAST project provided a consistently good service to Jack and his family**
- **A number of agencies provided consistent levels of support including**
- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services acknowledged the seriousness of Jack's case**
- **Child Line provided a unique service and were always available to Jack.**
- **Sexual support services provided excellent care for Jack and liaised well with other health providers.**
- **The school nursing service responded swiftly and liaised well with medical and educational services.**
- **The emergency department were able to access accurate records showing Jack was engaged with services**



What worried about ?

- 1.The police failed to deal with the referral from ChildLine in August 2010
- 2.The police failed to record initial crimes and begin a criminal investigation in February 2011.
- 3.Children's social care had received referrals in February 2011 but did not follow child protection procedures.
- 4.The police investigation conducted between February 2011 and April 2012 was poorly managed.
- 5.The police and children's social care's initial response to Jack's intention to abscond to London with a 25-year-old male was poorly dealt with
- 6.The failure to conduct an initial child protection conference in March 2011 and the subsequent reliance on the use of CSE strategy meetings
- 7. The incident in January 2013 when Jack met an offender outside his school was badly dealt with.



Childs Voice

1. Many people were listening to Jack and trying to help and support him.
2. The police and children's social care had some difficulties in hearing Jack's voice because of attitudinal or lack of time. Victim blaming blocked the voice being heard.
3. Therefore we need to ask who is listening to the voice of children who feel isolated and what support is currently available in Bradford to support these children



What needs to happen ?

- Child sexual exploitation must be recognised at the earliest opportunity and must always be risk assessed subject to child protection procedures.
- Partners need to be clear about their roles and responsibilities and act appropriately according to government guidance and local safeguarding children procedures.
- Police need to recognise child sexual exploitation and apply criminal processes appropriately.
- Multi agency meetings must be conducted according to the local safeguarding children procedures and have purpose, focus and actions with accountability.



Learning for professionals

- It is crucial that all practitioners are supported to follow child safeguarding procedures and criminal processes alongside using their professional judgment
- All partners need to be able to challenge and be challenged with oversight from the BSCB
- All practitioners and their managers should be aware that even when parents are cooperating and doing their best to safeguard, the child can still be subject to significant harm from abusers external to the family
- There must be sufficient resources to deliver child protection services at the time of need
- The risk of technology assisted abuse must be recognised as significant both locally and nationally
- The impact of the grooming process on victims of child sexual exploitation must be understood .A child should not be deemed to be responsible for the harm they suffer i.e. there should not be victim blaming



Conclusion

- This was a classic case of grooming. Jack's use of the internet and social media put him at high risk and caused him to suffer serious harm. We do not know what could have been done to prevent this. When Jack and his parents turned to the agencies they thought best placed to protect him, they found the system failed them.
- Ultimately, the police and children's social care should have done more to protect Jack.



Multi-Agency Responses for this case

CSE HUB focus on assessing risk, reducing risk, providing support and prosecuting perpetrators

- Risk assessment tools*
- Information sharing *

Training

- E learning

Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation (E learning)

(http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=86)

- Advanced Course

CSE building a resilience approach for children and families

(<http://bradfordscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CSE-a-Resilience-Approach-for-Families-2017-18.pdf>)

CSE Action Plan

BSCB CSE Sub Group

*Link (http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=67)

