

01 Background

Eve was a 16-year-old girl who died as a result of suspected suicide. She lived with her parents and twin sister in a very supportive environment.

She had been accessing mental health support for a number of years including tier 4 in patient treatment on two occasions.

She had a parallel diagnosis of Asperger's.

Safeguarding Concerns 02

- Diagnosis of Asperger's and depressive disorder
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Self-esteem and identity issues
- Severe anxiety and depression
- Verbalising and documenting intent to end life
- Negative experience of tier 4 provision
- Transition to adult services

07 Implementing Change

- Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice
- Outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in your area.

Recommendations

- Case to prompt a coordinated response by all multi-agency and strategic boards that hold overarching responsibility for the emotional and mental wellbeing of children.
- Children's mental health and safeguarding issues would be more effectively managed under one "umbrella" rather than separate pathways
- Children who have features of ASD and serious mental health challenges require personalised packages of care and dual care pathways
- Support offer for Parents/Carers to be given clarity

The Incident 03

On the 4th September 2018, Eve, aged 16 years old, left a note detailing her suicide intent. Later that day Police informed her parents an incident had occurred in the afternoon on a local train track and tragically Eve had died.

The Review

A Concise Practice Review was held which sought to understand:

- Were statutory duties of agencies fulfilled in this case?
- Was the assessment, decision making and planning robust and appropriate?
- Were their organisational or contextual difficulties that prevented agencies from fulfilling their statutory duties?

The Findings

- Significant challenges in managing a child with Eve's complex presentation within the single and multiagency current systems
- A multiagency response under the safeguarding procedures was not evidenced
- Eve's parents should have been offered a carers assessment.
- No significant evidence of early multiagency planning
- Tier 4 provision is not suitable for children with dual diagnosis

