

Transitional Safeguarding



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Role

The role involves supporting social work staff seconded to mental health services (EPUT) under S75 Partnership Agreement.

- Supporting staff with transitions for young people who are leaving children's services but still at risk of exploitation,
- Supporting mental health community teams when dealing with transitional safeguarding cases.



Approaches

- Transition Protocols (Mental Health Services, Social Care),
- Safeguarding duty under S42 Care Act 2014,
- Duty to notify under Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act,
- Refer victims into the NRM via the online process.



Case Study

- Tim is 17 year old young person,
- known to Children Social Services since 2010 , open to CM+16 Team,
- Known to Mental Health Services (but not open),
- Previous hospital admission,
- Diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Emerging Mixed Personality Disorder.

Case Study

- History of police involvement,
- Incident occurred where Tim allegedly involved in a robbery of a 14-year-old male on social media (Facebook),
- Member of the public disclosed his father's address. Tim reported this incident to the police,
- Disclosed stating that he was being controlled by a group of people,
- Tim expressed his concern of not feeling safe.

Actions Taken

- A safeguarding was raised by Children Services,
- A referral to mental health services was completed,
- Tim was placed in a safe house and received Outreach support from Salvation Army (NRM) and he was given a weekly allowance,
- Housing Team assisted with a temporary accommodation out of county due to safety concerns. Salvation Army continued providing outreach support i.e. benefits, G registration, college application etc.
- Notified the other local authority and mental health service about the risks,
- Police completed a handover to the local police.



Challenges

- Conflicting approaches by Criminal Justice and Social Services,
- Different Budgets, frameworks and policies (Mental health services, Children Services and Adult Social Care),
- Differences in referral criteria and entry thresholds,
- Lack of suitable housing (conflict of duty)
- Inconsistencies in age cut-off points with some services ending when a young person is 16 whilst other services have a lower age limit of 18.





What Worked

- Collaborative Local Partnership Approach – Safeguarding Boards,
- Joint up agreement between EPUT Teams and Local authority (Children/Adults),
- Think Family Approach Policy – Involving all professionals, young people and their families,
- Specialist Transition Worker (Team) EPUT
- Psychological Services supporting Transitions
- Strength based Approach,
- Cultural Competence – Challenging discrimination
- Awareness of street culture,
- Effective supervision and training on Transitions, Modern slavery/exploitation,
- Legal support.



Legislations

- Care Act 2014
- Mental Health Services 1983
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Housing Act 1996
- Homeless Code of Guidance for Local Authorities
- Immigration Act 2016
- The Children Act 1989
- Human Rights Act 1998
- NHS Act 2006



Thank you

