



TSAB SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

SAR JAMES



1. Background:

The Trafford Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) commissioned this Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) in Spring 2025 to understand the care and support provided to an adult man who was living with complex vulnerabilities and who was known to several Trafford district services, along with services provided by neighbouring districts of Greater Manchester and Cheshire, including various hospitals. The adult man at the centre of the review process is called James for the purposes of this review. Very sadly James died in early November 2024. The medical cause of his death was an insulin overdose. A Coroner's Inquiry into James's death will further investigate the wider possible causes and circumstances of his death.

2. Context:

The complexity of James's life experiences alongside his health, care and social needs are important context for the review. James had a complex family history. Records note that he disclosed having a very difficult childhood with sustained exposure to domestic abuse perpetrated by his father against his mother and James himself. His father was an alcoholic and died of alcohol-related organ failure which James is noted as disclosing that it was his father's death that triggered his use of drug and alcohol from around the age of 19. James also had complex health and social needs, although not all these issues were recognised by services at the time. His contact with mental health services appears to go back over 20 years. Alongside his alcohol use, James lived with a form of insulin dependent diabetes, called Type 3c diabetes, which he had to regularly monitor and administer insulin to himself.

3. Good Practice Learning Points:

- The homelessness team worked flexibly with James
- Several agencies acknowledged the good collaborative working between the 2 community substance dependence workers who supported James and the Trafford homelessness team
- The Police assessment of their contact with and responses to James was that it was largely in line with expected practice.
- Professionals escalating the alleged bi-lateral domestic abuse into the MARAC arena was seen as helpful because it recognised the overall vulnerability of the family
- Trafford Domestic Abuse Services noted that the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) allocated to work with James persevered to engage him.
- Several agencies recognised the strong advocacy in relation to James's vulnerability.
- Several practitioners and teams were persistent in raising safeguarding concerns about James, formally and informally.

4. Summary of Learning:

This review has considered the very complex circumstances and multiple health, housing and care needs of an extremely vulnerable man who very sadly appeared to be in a state of crisis during the final year of his life. There are undoubtedly issues which made it more challenging for professionals to effectively support James, including; his recent arrival in Trafford, his relatively limited history with Trafford services and hospitals prior to 2024, his homelessness, his complex range of high and specialist needs challenged individual professionals' range of knowledge and skills, and their ability to identify with clarity the chief risks to James's safety and wellbeing.

The review has seen that there were multiple missed opportunities, across agencies and professions, to support James effectively. And highlighted multiple concerns around the safeguarding processes.

Recommendations:

- Multi-agency communication and co-ordination of care and support for a vulnerable adult with complex care needs:
 - Protocols for information sharing around vulnerable adults
 - Local procedures for identifying, supporting and protecting vulnerable adults at high risk of harm
- Managing vulnerability and risk
 - Type 3c diabetes care
 - Medical self-neglect
 - Suicide risk
 - Alcohol dependency
 - Homelessness
 - Domestic abuse
- Prompt safeguarding and mental capacity interventions
 - Effective use of the safeguarding system
 - Information-sharing and assessment of mental capacity

To access more Learning and Development resources please visit:
www.traffordsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk