



Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board publishes Robert Cox Serious Case Review

The Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) has today published an independent Serious Case Review Executive Summary into the death of Robert Cox, who died on 9 August 2013 aged 24.

The purpose for conducting this review was to establish whether any lessons can be learnt from the circumstances surrounding Robert's death and to recommend changes to be made if necessary. The review was conducted by an independent author and looks at the actions of all agencies connected to Robert.

The circumstances relating to this event have also been subject to other formal processes including a criminal investigation and trial. A coroner's inquiry is now planned for later this year (2016).

This review was started before the Safeguarding Adults Board was established on a statutory basis in April 2015, but has been completed with oversight from the Board to ensure that any recommendations made are clear and will be audited for progress made.

Louise Lawton, Chair of the Board, said: "I would like to speak on behalf of the Board to express my deepest sympathy to Robert's family for their loss. I would also like to apologise on behalf of the Board to Robert's family for the length of time the review has taken as there have been delays during the process.

"Safeguarding adults is an absolute priority for the Board and its partners, as it should be for everyone. As independent chair of the BSAB along with partner organisations, we are committed to reducing risk so that vulnerable adults are protected and can live free from harm.

"The review into Robert's death made a number of recommendations, which the Board accepts. Where changes are recommended, the Board will be monitoring and scrutinising how these actions are put into practice across relevant agencies to ensure long lasting changes are made. An action group has been formed made up of representatives from the Board's partner agencies, which will report to the Board and ensure progress on each recommendation is made quickly.

“It is impossible to completely eliminate risk in any situation, but I hope the review’s recommendations will be valuable in creating a safer future.”

For more information about the recommendations made by the review, and the actions the BSAB will take, please view the Board response.

ENDS