



Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board – Case Study

Background

This case study revolves around a gentleman in his mid – 50's with a learning disability and a sensory impairment (profoundly deaf). He has difficulty managing change and can exhibit challenges if they are not explained to him well. He also has bouts of mental ill health. He lives in a shared accommodation house with 1 other tenant.

He is supported by a floating support service 3 days a week for a total of 6hrs.

Incident(s) – leading to referral

During a support session with this gentleman it came to light that for the third week in succession he had no money left two days after receiving his benefits. He had been supported to budget for the week ahead and had agreed an amount that would include his food whilst he accessed the community throughout the day.

The support worker was concerned and asked him what had happened and where his money had gone. He told the support worker that he had some friends and that they didn't have anything and had bought them food and drink as well as for himself. The support worker asked where he had met these friends as he hadn't mentioned them before and was he seeing them that day. He explained that because he had no money they had said they had other things to do so, no he wasn't seeing them today. The support worker pursued the conversation about who the new friends were. It transpired that the new friends were people living within the homeless community and he had met them when he came out of the bank one Friday afternoon (this was his normal day for collecting his monies and completing his finance support). The support worker asked how often this had happened. Every Friday for around 4 weeks.

They did not know where he lived.

Action Taken

Following a conversation with the gentleman to explain that this was a potentially a Hate / Mate Crime and that they may only be friends with him when he gave them money, he agreed for the support worker to call the local police.

The police had an awareness of this group as they were known within the local constabulary as befriending adults who they considered vulnerable and they had a suspicion that they were taking money and belongings from individuals; no-one had come forward before now.

A safeguarding concern was also raised.

The police liaised with both the safeguarding team and the provider to carry out an investigation



Outcome

The provider increased the service user's support, by 1 hour per week with the agreement of the local authority so that support was available to access the bank on a Friday (the service user was unwilling to change their day).

An appointment was made with the bank to look at additional budgeting support

The provider researched accessible information that explained how Hate/ Mate Crime can be taking place and ways to keep the gentleman safe.

Safe places were also investigated with him as he is a well-known character within the area he lives.

The police were unable to prosecute, however, they ensured there was a better presence in the areas where the individuals frequented.

The local community police officer is also a well-known character in the community and is known to the gentleman. Throughout the process the gentleman built a relationship of trust with him.

He told his support worker that he would try and find him should he feel threatened or at risk.

Learning Points

Working in partnership worked well. All parties worked with one goal – how best to support the service user and to support him to keep safe.

The bank was a really useful resource to support the person in the community.

Finding places of safety helped the gentleman maintain his independence which was very important to him. The additional hour per week for just a few weeks was key to maintaining this level of independence into the future.

Some prevention work regarding mate and hate crime could have supported the person to understand when he was at risk

Further work into relationships would have been helpful but none could be found that he was willing to attend.

Further Reading

<http://arcuk.org.uk/safetynet/examples-of-mate-crime/>

<https://www.sariweb.org.uk/news-information/bristol-hate-crime-discrimination-services/>

<https://www.bhcads.org.uk/>

<https://bristolsafeguarding.org/adults/safeguarding-adult-reviews/bristol-sars/mate-crime-thematic-review/>