



## **Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board publishes new review**

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) published today (21 June) by the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) has found that Kamil Ahmad's murder was avoidable.

Kamil was a Kurdish asylum seeker who was murdered in 2016 by Mr X, a white British male, whilst both were residents in the same supported living accommodation for individuals with mental health needs. Mr X was convicted of murder in 2017 and is now serving a life sentence.

The purpose of the SAR is to identify what can be learnt from Kamil's murder in order to improve how other adults at risk of abuse are supported by professionals and not to apportion blame. The review was written by two independent authors and has involved many different organisations some of which are not statutory members of the safeguarding board. The review has been accepted by the BSAB in full and makes sixteen recommendations for the BSAB and organisations involved.

Louise Lawton, independent chair of the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board, said: "Kamil was tragically murdered in a country where he was seeking safety and his death has affected many people across Bristol and beyond. The Board's sympathies will always remain with Kamil's family and friends and I am particularly grateful for his family's involvement and support of this review during this distressing time.

"The SAR has highlighted some important learning and has identified opportunities which could have been taken to separate Kamil and Mr X. Of particular consequence is the process by which Mr X was discharged from a secure hospital on the day of Kamil's murder, how agencies worked together to coordinate care and assess risk, and opportunities to terminate Mr X's tenancy at the housing provision. The review also found Mr X had a significant history and pattern of racially motivated attacks against Kamil which culminated in his murder."

Kamil's death has led to changes across agencies including better co-ordination between care providers and with care co-ordinators. How patients are discharged and communication with private providers has also been reviewed, as has the way in which beds are allocated to people in the community who are experiencing a mental health crisis and may pose a risk to themselves or others.

In response to the review, the BSAB is commissioning a new risk assessment tool for housing providers when considering the compatibility of possible tenants, and will be reviewing safeguarding guidance for agencies in relation to unconscious bias. An extended Bristol Hate Crime and Discrimination service, was commissioned and launched last year.

Louise continued: “The review highlights some key areas which need to change, which cross the work of many different professionals, and I am encouraged by how agencies have engaged with this review process. Adults experiencing significant mental health crisis should receive services which are well coordinated and responsive to changes in their needs and risk to others. The BSAB remains committed to continuing to work with our senior commissioning partners to drive forward and scrutinise improvements in this area.

“It also notes some examples of good practice and the value Kamil placed on the help he received from the voluntary sector. Support provided by the housing provider to both individuals and other residents, and the response of the Police who attended the incident are areas of particular note.

“Whilst nothing can make up for the loss that Kamil’s family have suffered, I hope that the review’s recommendations will help to safeguard other adults at risk of harm in the future. Everyone has a right to be safe in their own homes and I am absolutely committed to making safeguarding everyone’s business.”

The full review and responses from key agencies involved can be found on the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board here: <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/adults/safeguarding-adult-reviews/bristol-sars/>

## **ENDS**

For a list of agencies working in Bristol to support asylum seekers and refugees please visit the City of Sanctuary website; <https://bristol.cityofsanctuary.org/bristol-organisations>

For details of mental health services in Bristol and Bristol’s Mental Health Crisis line please visit the Bristol Mental Health website; <http://www.bristolmentalhealth.org/services/>

For support with Hate Crime please contact Bristol Hate Crime & Discrimination Services (BHC&DS); <https://www.bhcads.org.uk/>

## **For interview requests please contact:**

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For AWP please contact Steph Mounsey, [steph.mounsey@nhs.net](mailto:steph.mounsey@nhs.net) or call 01225 362994 or 07823 551661

For Bristol City Council please contact Kirsty Stilwell, [Kirsty.stilwell@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.stilwell@bristol.gov.uk) or call 0117 35 25633 or 07467 335767

For Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG please contact Jack Bancroft, [jack.bancroft@nhs.net](mailto:jack.bancroft@nhs.net), or call 07785 371265

For Bristol Refugee Rights please contact Beth Wilson, [beth@bristolrefugeerights.org](mailto:beth@bristolrefugeerights.org) or call 0117 9145480 or 07704291171

For Cygnet Health please contact Morgan Rossiter, Richard Evans, Charlotte Cheal, or Stefan Colligan, [cygnet@morganrossiter.com](mailto:cygnet@morganrossiter.com) or call 0203 195 3240

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