

7 Key Learning Themes/recommendations

- Familiarity with and use of CPVA pathway across children and adult services – including joint safeguarding meetings.
CPVA pathway has now been revised. Briefing and Toolkit training is available via ncc.learningpool.com for the children's workforce. Adult services should contact socialcaretraining@northumberland.gov.uk
- Awareness of self-harm, suicide and the NSSP self-harm procedures and pathway.
- Recognition of signs and indicators of criminal exploitation.
- Use of non-judgemental language when discussing and recording possible exploitation situations.
 - Clear pathway and awareness of transition process from children to adult services, to avoid 'cliff-edge' of support. Use of 'Think Family' approach.

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Transition

There were delays in referrals to Adult Services prior to 18.

Transition to adulthood can be a challenging and vulnerable time. Ineffective transitional planning can lead to young people 'slipping through the net'.

- Consideration of adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) when assessing children and young adults.
- Invisibility of fathers.

Domestic Abuse and CPVA

Both Aaron's and Bobby's behaviour in the home caused high levels of fear in family members. Their mothers both described being unable to manage their violence and aggressive behaviour.

There was no recognition of Child to Parent Violence and Aggression (CPVA) by professionals and services. Also no identification of the mothers' as 'victims', or support offered.

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There is no record of professionals considering the risk of criminal exploitation for either of these young men or referring them to the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET) process.

Vulnerability to criminal exploitation

Aaron and Bobby were both using high levels of illicit substances; their mothers expressed concern about them accruing drug debts and associating with inappropriate adults. They also both had frequent episodes of 'going missing'.

1

Bobby and Aaron

Aaron and Bobby both took their own lives, aged 19 years old.

Their cases are unrelated but there are similarities in their situations, which provide learning for services including children and adults social care, health and police.

Both young men had significant substance use issues, periods of going missing, and demonstrated aggressive behaviour particularly within their family context. They both exhibited domestically abusive behaviour towards their mothers, and in Bobby's case also his siblings. Aaron and Bobby had sporadic engagement with professionals, and often had periods of refusing support from services.

Vulnerabilities

Aaron spent some time in Local Authority Care, including secure accommodation. He also had a history of frequent incidents of self harm and suicidal ideation.

Bobby was assessed for autism; whilst he demonstrated some traits, he did not meet the full diagnostic criteria. However at school he was recognised as having special educational needs and social interaction difficulties.

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Offending Behaviour

Bobby was excluded from mainstream education and received a conditional caution for bringing a knife into school. He also received a youth caution for the theft of a debit card from his sibling. Bobby expressed interest in the Columbine high school killings. However *no Prevent referral was made.*

Aaron was frequently arrested for disorderly and aggressive behaviour including criminal damage in a social care placement. This behaviour was directly related to his use of illicit substances.

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