

LEARNING THE LESSONS – October 2018

SALR17a: Single Agency Learning Review (DCC)

A Single Agency Learning Review was commissioned by Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board following the death of a teenager by alcohol overdose. The young person was home educated over a number of years and is known to have lived a happy life but died tragically having consumed a lethal amount of alcohol. Different professionals held separate pieces of information about any potential risks and vulnerabilities in relation to the young person, or how he viewed his circumstances. No one service had a full picture. It is not known whether the young person themselves understood the risks associated with excessive use of alcohol.

The full report is not for publication however, it is important that Derbyshire County Council staff and partners are aware of the learning themes below.

This briefing is to disseminate the learning for all Derbyshire County Council staff and multi-agency partners to better safeguard children in the future.

Lessons Learned

- 1) The importance of ensuring that the needs of children who are not educated within the school system are known and they have access to eligible services and information.
- 2) The need to endeavour to ensure that the voice of the child is heard, understood and acted upon.
- 3) The need for practitioners to have clear accessible information about the range of support services available, to enable them to work with children and families to access the right support.
- 4) The importance of ensuring that teenagers have the right information regarding the risks of alcohol use and how to respond in an emergency.
- 5) The importance of communication and information sharing between professionals regarding potential risks, particularly when families have declined support.