

## Kingston and Richmond LSCB learning summary

Brighton and Hove published a Serious Case Review (SCR) in July 2017 regarding the deaths of two young people in Syria in 2014. The SCR was written by Edi Carmi and Anna Gianfrancesco.

### The story

The report covers 2012-14. It uses a systems' methodology and engaged with practitioners, community and religious groups, and family members.

W and X, two brothers were from a larger sibling group, who had support from services for poor school attendance, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. W, X and a friend went out to Syria via Turkey to join their older brother, P, who were it is understood, in the Al-Nusra Front, which had pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda in 2013.

W, aged 18 died in early 2014, and X, aged 17, died in October 2014. In early 2014 it was discovered that the three siblings were not in the UK; before this, none of the professionals involved in the family had suspected that the brothers were vulnerable to radicalisation. In 2013, it was found that P had gone to deliver aid, and a referral to the Channel Panel was made for X.

The family explained how hard it was to settle in the UK, following their life in their previous country, when they came over in the late 1980s, 1990s. They experienced shame when some of their children were involved in criminal activity. There were concerns for domestic abuse, physical abuse from the father to the children, and the family experienced racism. In 2010, the boys were subject to child protection plans for physical and emotional abuse, child in need plans and had YOS support.

Thirteen findings were made:

Some findings were about

- the skills of practitioners – an understanding of **trauma** and **avenues for support** were required – children were then more vulnerable to **exploitation**; it was important that practitioners were **curious about diversity** and the **challenges children face** as they grow up in a culture different to that of their parents'. Practitioners should have the space to be **reflective**, despite the pressure to be crisis driven and reactive.

Other findings were about:

- multi-agency work in situations of concern about **extremism and radicalisation**. Professionals could helpfully link risky behaviour with **truancy** and involvement with **anti-social behaviour**. Children who are **missing abroad** should also be subjects of child protection conferences. Brighton & Hove had created a new pathway for all concerns of radicalisation via the MASH, with a consistent child protection chair overseeing all child protection or child in need plans.

- Communities and their care about **self-esteem** for children. We need to draw them into our local radicalisation agenda. Everyone needs to know the **risks of extremism** in their own local area.

Find the SCR report here:

<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Siblings-W-and-X-SCR-July-2017.pdf>

### **Safeguarding and Radicalisation - a research report August 2017**

This report found some links between radicalisation and other types of grooming, such as for CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation). However the vulnerabilities to radicalisation were more complex. There is learning about how the response must be multi-agency, that there is a need for staff confidence, and community and family engagement.

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/635262/Safeguarding\\_and\\_Radicalisation.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/635262/Safeguarding_and_Radicalisation.pdf)