



Kingston Safeguarding Adults
Board

Title	Response to Sylvia Safeguarding Adult Review May 2023
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A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) was undertaken in collaboration with Croydon and Bromley Safeguarding Adult Boards. The SAR was coordinated by Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board. I would like to thank the Croydon SAB team for the work they have done to bring all three SABs and their partner agencies together to learn from Sylvia's experience. I would also like to thank both the Croydon and Bromley SABs for sharing their learning resources for this SAR.

The SAR was commissioned after Sylvia was tragically found dead in September 2021, of a suspected drug overdose. Sylvia was a 19-year-old British Sri Lankan woman who was known for her smile, charm, love of dancing, and artistic expression. Her youth worker described her as a "beautiful soul" and provided support to her throughout her youth. Sylvia and her siblings became known to Kingston's Children's Social Care in 2007 due to concerns about her lack of education since age 11, exploitation, drug use, and missing episodes. Despite a care order in 2016, suitable placements were difficult to find, leading to frequent moves and a stay in a specialist unit for young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.

In 2021, Sylvia, who was detained in a hospital under the Mental Health Act, went missing and was found attempting to jump into a canal. Despite being granted s17 leave on the hospital grounds, accompanied by two staff members, she managed to evade her escorts and disappeared. Tragically, she was found deceased two days later in a flat in Croydon.

Sylvia's family have been notified of the publication by the Croydon SAB. On behalf of the Kingston SAB, I commit to sharing the learning from this SAR widely in order improve services and multi-agency working. On behalf of the Kingston SAB, I would like to thank the authors of this SAR for their thorough work in completing this report.

The Kingston SAB will share the learning from this SAR through learning events and briefings. The SAR Sub-group will develop an action plan in response to the recommendations and monitor the progress in making an impact for changes to practice. As a start, the April SAB had a learning session, with colleagues from the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership, in relation to transitional safeguarding, during which the Sylvia SAR learning was shared and discussed.

The full SAR is available here, as well as a 7-minute briefing.

Nicky Brownjohn
Independent Chair Kingston SAB

