



SARI statement following Safeguarding Adult Review for Bakar

Bakar's circumstances are beyond tragic. Sadly, SARI became involved with Bakar only in the last few months of their life and during our short period of engagement, we did try to escalate our concerns for Bakar's safety and wellbeing as strongly as we could. We were privileged to be able to gain Bakar's trust and confidence when we were in touch, and we know that Bakar did feel we had a holistic understanding of their complex needs.

However, as one of the many agencies involved with Bakar, we were not able to prevent the terrible outcome for them – which following what must have been unbearable despair, meant they ultimately lost their life.

When Bakar died, SARI colleagues who had been supporting Bakar were extremely upset. In fact, it was this case that led to SARI reviewing its own trauma informed interventions for staff. Internally, we pledged we would do all we could to ensure Bakar's life was not lost in vain. SARI submitted a request for this SAR to happen and we believe our concerns were pivotal in the decision making of KBSP to commission this SAR. We are grateful that our input has been taken so seriously by the report author and KBSP.

We knew that the complex and multi-faceted reasons for Bakar having such appalling 'lived' experiences and outcomes needed exploring in detail.

Bakar is someone whose intersectional identity and multiple protected characteristics meant, in turn, that they faced multiple discrimination and oppression. Bakar was a refugee, Somali, Muslim person who was exploring their gender identity and exploring their sexual orientation. They had language and system barriers, capacity issues no doubt impacted by a history of complex trauma, bereavement and displacement. They also had a history of offending and substance abuse.

Bakar faced at the very least discrimination and bias and at worst they reported they faced hatred from within the communities they were part of. Being gay or trans in wider British society has its challenges, but SARI knows all too well how much harder it can be to explore your sexuality or gender identity in black and minority ethnic communities and faith communities. Bakar's brother is clearly an important and caring person in Bakar's life – but he cannot comment on Bakar's sexual orientation or gender orientation because it is outside of his comprehension or ability to discuss.

What is stark to read in this SAR is that the most personal and intrinsic aspects to Bakar's identity and 'lived experience' were not mentioned in their case notes. The focus was all too often on the presentation of their suffering e.g. mental health needs, housing, physical medical symptoms, alcohol and drugs use and presentation of risk to self-harm and to others. Professionals fail to discuss root causes and what mattered most to Bakar in our view.



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Bakar suffered isolation, poverty, nutritional and personal neglect no doubt all contributed to by a history of completely disjointed and unstable housing and support provision and at many points in their life, a lack of even the most rudimentary of facilities to support their day-to-day living such as a fridge or cooker.

We appreciate the causal factors are not simple but would like to emphasise the critical importance of the following elements of the recommendations from this SAR that absolutely reflect the reasons why we asked for this review in the first place:

- That practitioners across agencies **have a better awareness of the unique dynamics of discriminatory abuse (including the discussion of protected characteristics as part of person-centred care and the role of professional unconscious bias or assumptions)** and should monitor and audit practice in this area.
- **That fear of hate crime can constitute a risk** of discriminatory abuse.
- That KBSP should ensure that **all partners are offered training on discriminatory abuse and should monitor**, and review take up. We have suggested monitoring because multi-agency hate crime training was suggested in a previous Bristol SAR.
- That KBSP engage the Community Safety Partnership function of the partnership **in relation to discriminatory abuse in view of the two SARs that Bristol has commissioned on this theme to consider actions for improvement in understanding across the whole system.**

It should be noted that SAR1 was commissioned in the past by KBSP to deliver hate crime training as part of a contextual safeguarding offer, but this stalled some time ago and we are keen that this should be reintroduced as a matter of urgency.

Bakar's case illustrates the importance of a multi-agency approach for providing support for people with complex needs and that this support must consider the intersectionality of protected characteristics and multiple oppression.

Bakar needed a holistic approach that fully appreciated all aspects of their identity and 'lived experiences'.

Another of our biggest concerns when working with Bakar was the lack of sufficient support they received around their mental health and the fact that services were not continuous and consistent when they needed to be. It is therefore a positive recommendation that Avon & Wiltshire Partnership should develop guidance for closing cases where there is significant multi-agency involvement and consider their referral or re-referral pathways.

We hope that as a result of this SAR other people in a similar position to Bakar will have their needs and identities better recognized, be better understood and therefore be enabled to better access the help they need before it is too late.