

# 7 Minute Briefing – Gabriel

## 7 – Resources

Safeguarding Partnership Board Website

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Safeguarding Training: Virtual Briefings (Microsoft Sways), Online Training and Training Resources

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

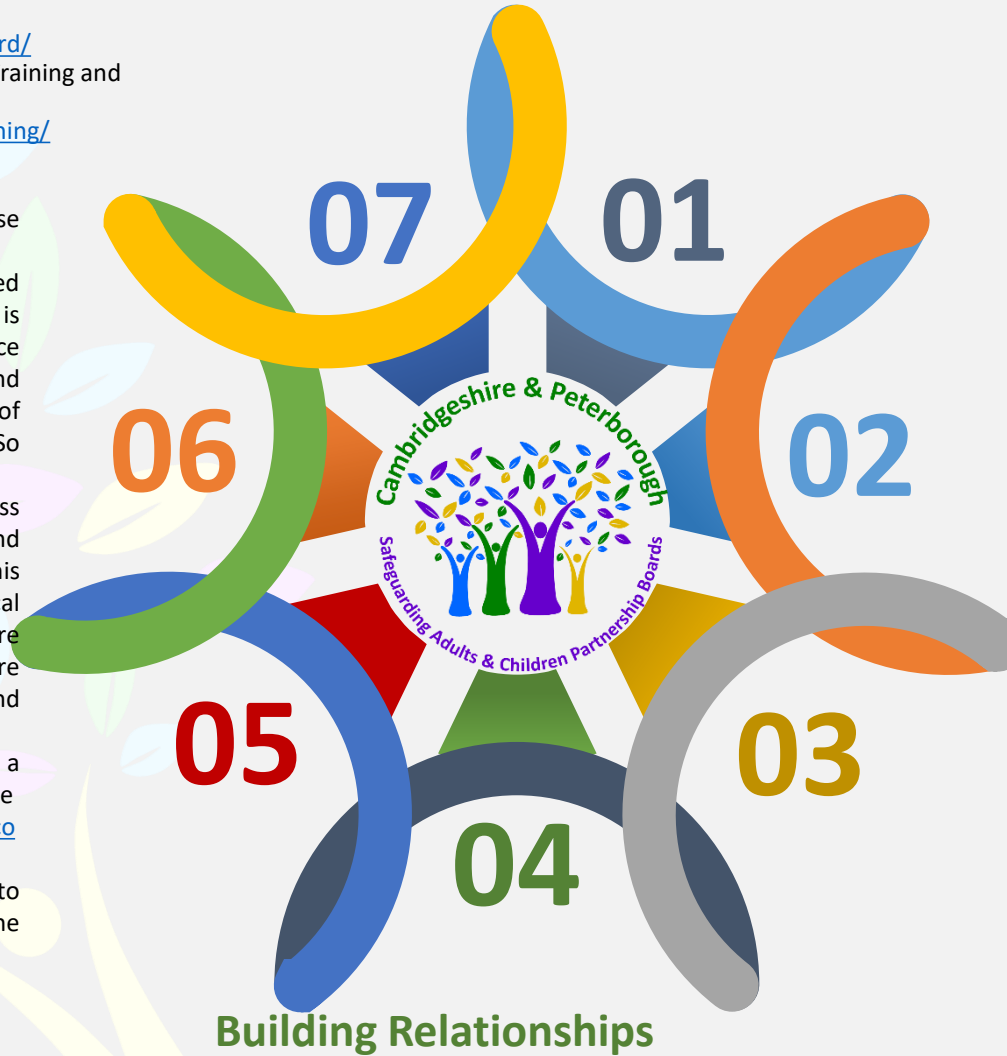
## Practice Changes Since the Review

Proactive changes have been made since the review and these include

- Children open to the SAFE (Safer Relationships For Exploited Children) team will always have a Social Worker. There is strategic/operational join up between Youth Justice Service (YJS), Adolescent Teams and SAFE. The MET (Missing and Exploitation Team) has been moved to sit under the Head of Service who oversees the YJS, SAFE and Adolescent Teams. So what?
- There is a pilot Tier 2 Contextual Safeguarding pathway across both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire focusing on places and spaces + links with Community Safety across both areas. This links to the development of Tier 1 pathways in both Local Authorities which is the individual focused response. Both are establishing significant harm pathways for children. There are established multi-agency project groups to ensure effective and joined up work.
- The risk tool has been updated and relaunched, it is now a screening tool for Child Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/download/contextual-risk-screening-tool/>
- Criminal Exploitation strategic group have an action plan to reflecting on all the recent learning including the work on the cohort profile and the recommendations of this review

## Cultural Competence

It is important that professionals consider as part of their assessments and interventions a child's ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. This forms a picture of the child's lived experience and helps to tailor support and interventions. <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/procedures/safeguarding-cultural-and-faith-communities/>



## Building Relationships

Child reviews and research have emphasised that, in order for children at risk of exploitation or involvement in serious youth violence to be effectively helped, the child needs the opportunity to develop a **strong relationship with an adult or professional who they feel they can trust.**

## Background

Gabriel, 17 years old, died in a knife related incident in November 2022. His death occurred during an altercation in Cambridgeshire, where he lived, with two young people from London, where he had previously lived. One of these young people subsequently pleaded guilty to his manslaughter, was convicted and sentenced to custody. Gabriel was an intelligent and academically able young man. It is a tragedy that there was every chance that he could have fulfilled his potential

## Assessment of Risk

Assessment tools used to assess the risk Gabriel posed to himself and to others, in both London and Cambridgeshire, were based on the scoring or grading of risk against a set of behaviours known to be commonly associated with child criminal exploitation. **Gabriel did not display many of these behaviours.**

Gabriel moved from one Local Authority area to another in 2019 and then returned to live with his mother in 2022. On both occasions the receiving authority determined that the level of risk had reduced significantly and that the level of intervention could be reduced. However, professionals should avoid seeing a child's move to and from areas as a 'fresh start' (i.e. start again syndrome) and should always be aware of what is known about the child's previous behaviours and risk. Taking this approach avoids the possibility of professionals being overly optimistic about a child's risk (i.e. rule of optimism) within their assessments and interventions.

## Voice of the Child / Lived Experience

The review found little sense of Gabriel's lived experience, what his wishes, feelings, ambitions were and what it was like for him growing up in his unique world. Professionals should consider **what life is like for a child** and to understand their inner and outside worlds and what might be the **reasons behind** a child's **behaviour(s).**

<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/download/lived-experience-of-the-child-practice-guidance/>