

7. Resources

- ❑ **7-minute guide:** [Self Harm \(CYP\)](#)
- ❑ **Procedure:** [Management of self-harm and/or suicidal behaviour](#)
- ❑ **Flowchart:** [Self Harm Pathway](#)
- ❑ **E-learning module:** [Self Harm: Children and Young People](#)
- ❑ **Classroom course:** [Self Harm](#)

6. Key Learning

- ❑ Where a professional makes a **safeguarding referral** there should be a mechanism in place to **feedback the outcome** of that referral to the referrer. **Where no outcome is received the referrer should follow this up.**
- ❑ The suicide and **self-harm pathway** should be clear about the circumstances in which **information must be shared** across agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- ❑ Agencies should be aware of the **impact of lockdown** on **children, young people and their families** and have services/policies/processes in place to offer support.

5. Good Practice

- ❑ *There is a lot of evidence that agencies worked together when engaged with the family and there was no evidence that the working practice (i.e., working from home) impeded any agencies accessing systems and information.*
- ❑ **A&E** carried out **Young Persons wellbeing assessment** noting isolation and peer relationships as concerns.
- ❑ **A&E** made **referral to Mental Health Service**, and ISLA seen by clinician from universal crisis team who made an onwards **referral to Early Help**.
- ❑ **School** appeared to play an important role in ISLA's life, with records indicating that her attendance was excellent and that she was making good progress.
- ❑ **School maintained contact** with ISLA and her family throughout lockdown and **offered support** (including offering school attendance once aware of self-harm incident)
- ❑ Once in school, ISLA made self-harm disclosure on behalf of another child which was positively actioned by school.
- ❑ **It is clear that agencies were working with the whole family to support them.**

4. Themes

- ❑ **Communication** between agencies (including Information Sharing).
- ❑ Awareness and promotion of the **Suicide and Self-Harm pathway**.
- ❑ **Bullying** – professionals were unaware therefore unable to support.
- ❑ **Impact of lockdown** and Isolation on mental and emotional health (for children, young people and adults).

1. ISLA – Background

- ❑ ISLA, her family and siblings were involved with children's services across a number of authorities over a few years (more recently in 2019).
- ❑ **The majority of this review period covers a time of COVID lockdown when ISLA was not in school.**
- ❑ ISLA attended A&E (in May 2020) after a deliberate self-harm event.
- ❑ Isolation and peer relationships were noted in her wellbeing assessment along with a previous self-harm disclosure.
- ❑ A referral was made to Psychiatric Liaison Service (PLS), and she was seen by a clinician from the Universal Crisis Team who made referral to Early help. As PLS were involved Early Help closed the referral.
- ❑ In June 2020 (during school welfare contact) parent made school aware of self-harm incident (in May) and negative comments ISLA was receiving from peers via social media around her gender.
- ❑ **In October 2020 ISLA was found deceased at her home address, having taken her own life.**

2. Family context

- ❑ Family and siblings known to multiple services over a number of years around caring responsibilities within the family.
- ❑ Police notified Children's Services there had been an incident in 2020 between the siblings and peers.

3. Areas of concern

- ❑ Mental Health Service closed case and made referral to Early Help which was not responded to – **no follow up** was made by the clinician involved.
- ❑ Early Help closed the referral due to Mental Health Service involvement. **There is no clear indication of which service was continuing involvement.**
- ❑ The **self-harm information was not shared** with school who may have been able to offer support to ISLA and her family.
- ❑ Parents made school aware (in June 2020) there had been **no health professional follow up**.
- ❑ Parents report **bullying** was a significant concern, yet there was no significant mention of it in agencies records and **professionals involved with ISLA said they were not aware.**

