



CASE SCENARIO - DARRY

Notification criteria

Self-harm and attempted suicide (serious injury).

Age

17 years

Theme

Learning disability, adolescent mental health, emotional and behaviour problems.

Case Scenario

Darry had exhibited behavioural and language concerns at secondary school which led to a move to a school for children and young people with special educational needs at age 15.

The new school soon became concerned about Darry showing increased anxiety, low mood, lack of interaction with peers and self-harm, and referred Darry to CAMHS learning-disability team.

Two years later, when Darry was almost 18-years-old, her mother contacted CAMHS to report that her daughter had run away and expressed suicidal thoughts. She was advised to call the police who found Darry in a distressed state with self-harm cuts to her hand.

The police detained Darry under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and took her to the hospital, where she was assessed under the Mental Health Act by a child and adult psychiatrist and a mental health social worker. Darry was assessed

as lacking capacity and it was agreed that Darry would be reassessed the next day with her mother present to see if would help Darry feel more comfortable and able to talk.

The hospital social worker contacted the Children's Social Care duty team, the children with disability team and the adult community learning disability team and all responded that they could not see what role they would have. An arrangement was made with the Intensive Support Team (IST) from the adult mental health services team to provide support despite this not being within their remit. Professionals from the IST made a home visit but found that Darry was unable to communicate, but she did agree to listen whilst her mother and her maternal aunt shared that Darry had been physically and emotionally abused by her father.

IST had no further involvement with Darry or the family and provided verbal feedback to CAMHS about their involvement. The family were seen at home by the CAMHS team but the support was not reviewed in response to the incident.

Darry's school contacted CAMHS at the end of term as they remained significantly concerned about her. CAMHS confirmed that they continued their plan of support.

Darry ran away from home again and was found by the police in a distressed state unable to speak. They took her home and it was reported that she refused to take her medication.

Darry was taken for a CAMHS appointment the following day but ran away again and tried to take her own life. She survived but now has life changing physical injuries.