



‘Street Deaths’ Thematic Review & Streetwise Week of Action (Taunton)

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How did it start?



Over 9 weeks between December 2017 and February 2018
5 adults died unexpectedly in Taunton

All were part of, or associated with, the rough sleeping / homeless community.

Identified as a potential public health issue as this situation was not being observed elsewhere in the County (* Northampton)

The Review



- Information was sought from fifteen organisations or services where at least one of the group was believed to previously have had contact.
- This included both qualitative and quantitative data.
- This was sorted by agency/organisation/outcome.
- Then further sorted into themes.

Dominant Themes



- Problematic Alcohol or Substance use (5)
- Unstable, Multiple, Short Term accommodation (5)
- Domestic Abuse Offender/Victim (5)
- Rough Sleeper (4)
- History of Repeat Offending (4)
- Local Authority Housing Team contact (4)

Additional Themes

- SDAS referral or engagement (3)
- Mental Health Diagnosis or Suspected (3)
- Combination of Drugs/Alcohol/Spice (3)
- Multiple SWAST/ Hospital Contact (3)
- Out of area/No local ties (3)





Socially Excluded?

“Those people who have experienced a combination of issues in addition to homelessness that have impacted adversely on their lives, such as offending, substance misuse and mental health problems; who have been routinely excluded from effective contact with the services they needed; and have tended to lead chaotic lives that are costly to society”

(MEAM)

Unexpected findings...



SWAST

Over the 9 weeks there were over 100 calls to SWAST in relation to people they classified as having links to Lindley house (48) or the Homeless community.

25% of all these calls related to two men.

One of those men (who accounted for 11% of all calls) did not feature on the current Homeless One Team agenda.



Multiple SWAST/ Hospital Contact

All had attended MPH or required a response from SWAST since April 2016. 3 of the group on multiple occasions.

Name	SWAST Cost £255* x Number of calls	MPH Cost £1,130* x Number of admissions	Total estimated cost
A	Approx. 3	Approx. 6	£ 7,545
B	0	1	£1,130
C	2	2	£2,770
D	Approx. 1	1	£1,385
E	Approx. 3	3	£4,155
Total	8	13	£16,985

*estimated costs



Hidden Harms

Three of the cohort were: known to SDAS, had a MH diagnosis and were either a DA victim or perpetrator.

Missed Opportunities

One person had previously been added to the agenda for the Social exclusion panel hosted by TDBC.

On the day of the meeting the provider did not attend and they
Were not discussed.



Adult Social Care

Three of the cohort were not known to Adults Social Care (Somerset) despite accessing multiple services.

Of these at least one would have fallen within the scope of their services through vulnerability – Self Neglect criteria.



Future Preventative Actions:-



Action
To obtain ambulance data about frequent callers to feed in to the one team meeting
Review Hospital 'missing persons' policy to ensure still fit for purpose
Continue to monitor the deaths as they come in and cross reference to existing themes
Preserving any evidence of spice use (witness testimony and paraphernalia)
Share the training around behaviour change and motivation across the One Team
Appropriate Public Health Specialist to be made aware of the warnings regarding potential for vaping Synthetic Cannabinoids



Further incidents

During the summer there were a small number of additional deaths in Taunton of individuals who could be identified as being part of the homeless / rough sleeper cohort.

These deaths attracted local and national media interest and in October Channel 4 broadcast a programme about Taunton

TDBC Rough Sleeping Reduction Programme was in development

There was still anxiety amongst professionals locally and a review meeting was called by Public Health challenging what had been learned and put into place since the review. Further actions set





Public Health agreed to coordinate a week of action which, after a 'shine a light session', had the following objectives:

- Reduce service demand
- Understand the cohort
- Offer opportunities of health checks and other services
- Health audit
- Understand and respond to social needs
- Diversion/signposting for additional support
- Look at how agencies and professional can work better together in the longer term (ASC)

Week of the 3rd December



- Night Café provided by volunteers from a number of Taunton churches brought together through the ROC Taunton Deane initiative
- Night-time Mobile Clinic jointly resourced; by triage nurses from Musgrove Park Hospital / Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Paramedics from SWAST
- Overnight ARC Outreach worker support
- Care Packages provided by ARC
- Neighbourhood Police presence each night at the café
- Dedicated Social Worker and CPN service each morning to provide assessment of need and provide individual care plans



Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust at Musgrove Park Hospital

7 December 2018 · 🌐

Rough sleepers in Taunton are being offered extra support this week with access to a night café, mobile clinic and long-term care plans. A mobile clinic manned by triage nurses from Musgrove Park Hospital and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has been stationed in the car park next door providing free health checks and medical treatment for minor problems: <https://www.tsft.nhs.uk/shinealight>



👍❤️👤 686

93 comments 302 shares



In contrast to the media attention during the summer this proactive work attracted **no** media interest.

This is despite multiple press releases being circulated by the partners supporting the week....

Legacy of the week



- A better understanding of the cohort* / improved outcomes
- An understanding of what elements went well and what didn't
- Collaborative partnership working tested
- Improved local partnership working across all organisations
- Adults Social Care becoming linked into the Streetwise team
- Increased options for delivering Severe Weather provision

- Vulnerability pathways within Taunton tested and understanding gained*
- Scanning of four District Social Exclusion Panels ongoing* (SSAB)

Collaboration has continued...



- Streetwise Team, Taunton Churches and the Salvation Army to delivered the Cold Weather (SWEF) provision 2018/2019
- The named social worker remained linked in to the Streetwise team
- A review of the locality Social Exclusion Panel (SEP) is ongoing.
- On the 26th April a workshop involving ASC/TD and Second Step (Step Together) to establish better local links and understanding took place.
- ASC will now be participant in the SEP going forward.

Questions?



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To work in Somerset's most vulnerable communities and provide coordinated front-line multi-agency working to efficiently provide sustainable solutions for families and individuals that prevent problems escalating and costs increasing to the public sector.



think child, think parent
THINK FAMILY

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