



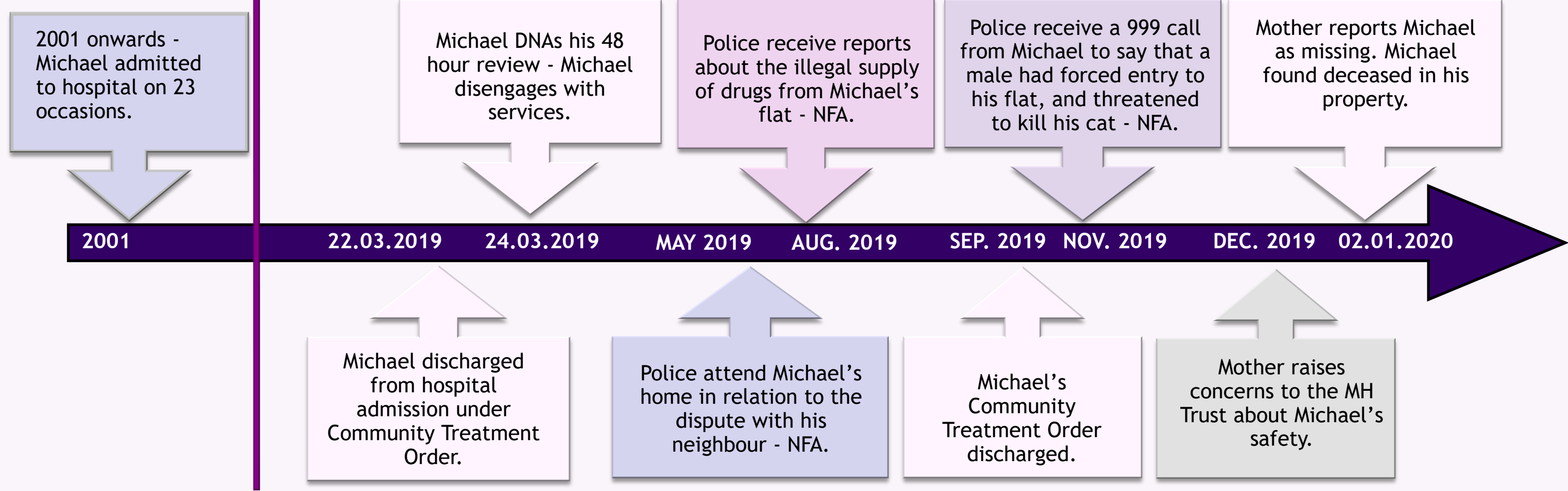
# MICHAEL, 2020

## LEARNING FROM SARs

[www.northlincssab.co.uk](http://www.northlincssab.co.uk)

### BACKGROUND:

Michael was killed in January 2020, having been the victim of criminal exploitation by a county lines criminal drug network. Michael was a talented musician and artist, who lived alone for many years. Michael had a history of poor mental health, complicated by the use of drugs. Michael had a poor history of engagement with support services, and was non-compliant with medication. At the time of his death, Michael was being supported by a number of agencies.



### KEY ISSUES:

**Person focused care planning** - there were missed opportunities to build a positive working relationship with Michael. There was a lack of understanding what was going on in Michael's life i.e., risks.

**Multi - agency planning** - there was a lack of multi - agency working and missed opportunities to share information between agencies.

**Understanding cuckooing** - there was a poor understanding among professionals about cuckooing.

**Community Treatment Order process** - Michael was discharged from CTO despite professionals raising concerns about his disengagement, and non-compliance with medication. Views of professionals were not recorded and the case was never escalated.



### POSITIVE FINDINGS:

*Michael's mother was his main support, and maintained excellent communication with the services working with him.*

*Unfortunately, at the time of Michael's death Michaels' mother was herself vulnerable - she was elderly and suffered from poor health.*

### ARE WE PREPARED IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE?

- Are you aware of forums and multi - agency decision - making panels available to professionals working with vulnerable adults in our area? Do you know where to access information and advice?
- Do you have a good understanding about adult criminal exploitation and cuckooing? Would you be able to spot the signs of cuckooing?
- Are you professionally curious and avoid bias when working with people who are hard to engage? Is your practice effective at building positive relationships and really getting to know the person you support?
- Are you confident to challenge decisions when you disagree with other professionals' opinions? Do you have escalation processes embedded in your daily practice?



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### LEARNING

##### Person - centred approach to safeguarding:

- Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) - professionals should seek to fully understand what is happening in a person's life, and what is important to them. This will help to increase engagement and put people at the heart of decision making.
- To support the development of safeguarding plans and the work of professionals, effective pathways of support should exist and be properly commissioned.

##### Multi - agency planning:

- Professionals should be aware of multi - agency policy and procedures, which exist to support safeguarding carried out in a non - statutory setting.
- In complex cases, all relevant professionals and agencies should be involved from the beginning. Multi - agency working enables professionals to jointly manage the risks, share information, and escalate appropriately.
- As risk increases, the safeguarding activity should be escalated. Doing 'more of the same' is unlikely to make a difference. Consideration should be given to making safeguarding referrals through established processes i.e., a safeguarding adult referral.

#### LEARNING CONT'D

- When asking the police to conduct a welfare check, professionals should clearly articulate why there is an immediate risk, and what they have already done to try and address it.

##### Understanding cuckooing and criminal exploitation:

- When working with vulnerable adults who use drugs, consider the risks of exploitation and look out for the signs.

##### Community Treatment Order (CTO) process:

- During a CTO review, it is essential to capture and detail the views of the other professionals working with the vulnerable person.
- Good practice should consider undertaking more than one review prior to discharging a CTO and upon discharge, a disengagement management plan should be put into place.
- A culture of professional challenge is essential to effective safeguarding. Professionals should be encouraged to challenge a decision which they feel may have a detrimental impact on a person's life.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- A new partnership strategy should be developed for a person - centred approach to safeguarding, and for the multi - agency planning of high risk or complex cases.
- The police should clarify their process for engagement in relation to adult safeguarding cases.
- The Safeguarding Adult Partnerships should develop a 'Cuckooing' criminal exploitation harm reduction strategy.
- The Mental Health Trust should produce new clinical guidance for the review and discharge of Community Treatment Orders.

### FURTHER RESOURCES

SAR report - Michael [michael\\_sar\\_overview\\_report.pdf \(sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk\)](http://sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk/michael_sar_overview_report.pdf)

SAR 7 - minute briefing - Michael [7\\_minute\\_learning\\_michael.pdf \(sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk\)](http://sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk/7_minute_learning_michael.pdf)

SAR podcast - Michael [Podcast](#)

[North-Lincolnshire-VARM-Policy-FINAL.pdf \(northlincssab.co.uk\)](http://north-lincolnshire-varm-policy-final.pdf)

[NLSAB cuckooing guide](#)

[7-Minute-Briefing-Cuckooing-Final.pdf \(northlincssab.co.uk\)](http://northlincssab.co.uk/7-Minute-Briefing-Cuckooing-Final.pdf)

[NLSAB 7 - minute briefing Making Safeguarding Personal \(MSP\)](#)

[NLSAB 7 - minute briefing professional curiosity](#)

[National Crime Agency county lines](#)