



Review undertaken in respect of the death of a young person who was known to Tusla social work services.

Kian

Executive Summary

November 2023

1. Introduction and background

Kian was a fourteen-year-old boy who was living with his father and sibling in hostel type accommodation at the time of his accidental death. He had some special needs and had been referred on three occasions to Tusla social work services during the previous year. The first of these involved a Garda investigation which found that the reported allegation was unsubstantiated. Before the investigation concluded, a second referral with an allegation of a different nature was made to the SWD. This was followed up and a safety plan agreed prior to closure of both referrals. A third report was made a year later, which was not deemed eligible for follow up. Shortly after this, Kian died accidentally.

2. Review Findings

The review has found that the responses to the concerns reported about Kian were followed up satisfactorily and that while contact with Kian's father concerning the second allegation might have been better conducted in person than on the telephone and for a longer period, Covid restrictions limited personal communication at the time. There was no evidence at any point that Kian or his sibling required care and protection, and an appropriate safety plan was put in place.

3. Conclusions

The review reached the following conclusions:

- The circumstances of Kian's accidental death could not have been predicted.
- In respect of the initial referral, it would have been premature for the SWD to have taken any action prior to the Gardai concluding their investigation.
- The safety plan put in place following the second referral could, ideally, have been monitored for a short time following the agreement of the safety plan. However, this was not a shortfall that caused any negative consequences.
- The minimal contact that the SWD had with this family was appropriate and there were no child protection or welfare concerns apparent.

Dr Helen Buckley

Chair, National Review Panel