

# 01 Why did the review take place?

Over a 4-month period in winter 2018/19 5 men died who had slept on the streets in Halifax, 4 of these men lived street-based lives. Concern was raised that there was no process of reporting the deaths of people who lived on the street, leading to concerns around the safeguarding of this vulnerable group of people.

# What did we learn?

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The overarching finding was that these men suffered multiple and complex needs (homelessness, addiction, offending behaviour, and mental ill-health) resulting in multiple disadvantage. There was evidence of trauma in their lives which impacts on a person's resources for coping, their sense of safety, ability to self-regulate, sense of self, perception of control and interpersonal relationships. This has a significant impact on help-seeking and engagement.

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## Learning 5 – Safeguarding

People living street-based lives are vulnerable to harms and must be seen as such with a robust multi-agency response to safeguarding. Pathways should be clear into statutory services.

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## Learning 1 – Engagement

Professionals must understand barriers to engagement and support, advocate and refer to services rather than rely upon the limited success of simply signposting.



## Learning 4 – Access to health care

All these men had significant health concerns and any missed appointments should give cause for concern. Dual diagnosis of substance misuse and mental health causes a risk of failing to respond to either need.

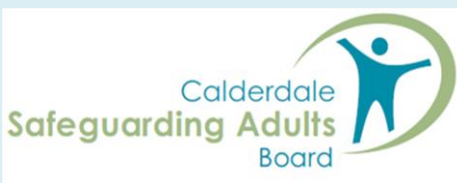
## Learning 2 – Culture and attitude

Professional or concerned curiosity must enable a holistic view of needs. Professionals must look beyond labels such as Beggars/ Rough sleepers/Drug users to understand the real person if they are to safeguard them from harm.

## Learning 3 – Burnt Bridges

People who experience MCN require professionals who are persistent in their efforts to provide services. A multi-agency response and robust inter-agency communication is essential. This is not a housing problem alone. Their multiple needs disadvantage them in securing and maintaining tenancies, reportedly 'burning their bridges' with landlords and agencies.

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