

Critical Analysis of Serious Case Reviews

The Case of Victoria Climbié - Child Death

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Introduction

This report is based on the discussion regarding one of the serious case in the health care sector whereas the report include the Serious Case Review analysis which is rigorous and transparent which explain and evaluate the professional practice in the case while shedding the light on routine constraints and challenges to the practitioner efforts to the safeguarding of the children. In this manner, the core purpose of Serious Case Review is to support the improvement in the safeguarding practices where as it is not enough to define the professional activity in the case or to determine the elements of the practice which were problematic without explaining the cause of occurrence of the problem. In this manner, it is required for the analysis to identify the reason which led to as well as sustained the kind of the practice problems which the case is revealing so the improvement efforts can be focused so far.

Here the focus of the discussion is on the child death case where the Victoria Climbié is being discussed under the Serious Case Review. This case is claimed to be a murder of Victoria Climbié an eight year old child in February 2000 which then exposed severe failing of the staff responsible for her welfare and child protection services (Burton & Revell, 2017). This eight year old girl came from west Africa to Europe with the hopes and dreams of having a better life but unfortunately ended up dying of hypothermia due to months of torture and neglect which her sadistic great aunt, Marie Therese Kouao and the aunt's boyfriend, Carl Manning inflicted on the poor child. When the case was investigated it was found that Manning and Kouao used to beat her almost every other day; a bicycle chain is used by Manning to beat Victoria while she is being struck by a coat hanger, a wooden spoon and a shoe on a daily basis by Kouao. However, Kouao also hit hammer on her toes. Not only this, the last few days of Victoria were spent in an unheated bathroom where she was tied up in a bin bag, lying in her own excrement and urine (Robinson & Qualtieri, 2019). After she died and investigation have done in November 2000 her abusers were jailed for life. While during the process of trial,

police, social and health services associated with the case were claimed to be incompetent blindly. In January 2001, Alan Milburn, the health secretary, ordered a statutory public inquiry into Victoria's death under the command of Lord Herbert Laming, former chief inspector of social services.

Overview of Case of Victoria Climbié

On November 1991 Victoria Climbié was born in the Ivory Coast. In London at the age of 9 she died, as her parents was not so rich and cannot afford her expense that's why they shift her to Europe at her aunt's place. Marie Therese kouao was the name of her aunt and Carl Manning was her boyfriend Victoria was brought to death because of torture given by her great aunt. But it's not important that Victoria die (Bhatti-Sinclair & Price, 2016). She had all contact with the police, nurses, and social workers when the abuse took place. Nearly daily Victoria's family undertook an open investigation into the systemic deterioration of the child welfare system. At times, her mother Berthed was far too detailed about Victoria's 128 injuries. The inquiry is led by Lord Laming, former head of public investigator. The barrister Neil Garnham's interrogations of suspects showed a picture at every level of incompetence and mistake. All the services include in child protection are exposed by her. The girl was well known to four departments that are as follow Haringey, Ealing, Brent and Enfield two hospitals Central Middlesex and North Middlesex two child protection teams and specialist managed by national society prevention of cruelty to children. In 1973 seven year old girl Maria Cowell was murdered after that incident it was another breaking news for multi-agency approach to child protection (Hunt et al., 2016). The case also highlighted the distress of thousands of children entering Britain each year through private incentives, most of whom come from West Africa, such as Victoria. They fall into the web, because they do not have to enroll as foster parents, which keeps them from following up.

Medical failures

The two experienced doctors fail to recognize Victoria's situation. At central Middlesex hospital Dr Mary Schwartz said these are normal cuts because of some skin infection or disease like scabies and she was discharged at that time and sent back to home along with their abusers in addition Dr Mary said she thought social service will further investigate the case (Pollard, 2017). After two weeks Victoria was again brought to the same hospital at that time another Dr Mary Rossiter examined her and feels that it was the case of abusing but she was totally confused by the statement by their colleagues that was **able to discharge** so after reading that statement Victoria was again sent back to home along with their abusers (Mutz, 2016).

Cardigan squad

Victoria's case was also failed by metropolitan police officer. Police child welfare work has had a low status. Baby sitter or the cardigan squad was the nick name of the team. How PC Karen was unable to inspect the case was observed by the inquiry. Haringey council was also blamed for not recognizing the situation of Victoria she was the social worker of Victoria. Ms Aurthworrey thinks that she was being the victim of crime. When the inquiry was going on a picture displaying child protection was painted by her in Haringey as confused along with the labors in conflict (Hann & Fertleman, 2016). The attack was made by her on numerous coworkers and explained her supervisions with Carole Baptiste which was her boss.

Responsibility

The first woman ever charged or prosecuted was Carole Baptiste for not giving evidence of a police prosecution. She blamed her subordinate, Ms Arthurworrey, however admitted that she hadn't interpreted the report correctly, although she apparently did cooperate. Ms. Baptiste demanded forgiveness from Victoria's family. For 11 years Gurbux Singh was the managing director of the council of Haringey (Church, Kirtchuk & Reiss, 2018). The former president of

the racial equation commission was responsible for the failure of his social workers to resurrect Victoria. The inquiry department was told by him that on the death of Victoria he don't feel answerable. There were no experts who wanted to save Victoria.

Reform

Esther Ackha is a far-away cousin of the great aunt of Victoria, Marie Therese. Two confidential calls were made at Brent Council by Esther to the investigation which stated worries for the safety of Victoria. Nothing has been done effectively. Priscilla Cameron was responsible for being childminder of Victoria. Care was the only way to diagnose her wounds as bone marrow was to have Priscilla and her son Avril admitted Victoria to the Middlesex Central Hospital (Mander & Sturge, 2016). Ministers received the report of Lord Laming who was the inquiry chairman three weeks ago. He promised to seriously consider that such a tragic event never occur again. The consolation is that effective reform will take place. His statements become a well-meaning cliché without any meaningful change.

Critical Analysis of Serious Case Review

Themes of Family History, Risk and Vulnerability

Victoria Climbié passed away at the age of only 8 on 25 February, 2000 due to numerous months of terrible abuse. Approximately 18 months ago her family members sent her to live with her aunt and hope she could receive better schooling and a better standard of living from her home in a shanty town of the Ivory Coast. Though, the situation was totally opposite, she was instead hitted with chain of bicycle and kept in an unlit, unheated bathroom in a plastic bag (Houston, 2015).

Parents of Victoria, Francis Climbié and Berthe Amoissi, say that Marie Thérèse, Kouao, has deceived them into having faith that she would look after her like their own child. The family, comprised of other six kids live in the impoverished suburbs of the Ivory Coast capital,

Abidjan. On Friday 28 September, they were the first to testify during the investigation. Following Victoria's pictures of missing teeth and scald stains on her head, Mr Climbié broke down. The pair's prosecutor threatened that they could charge police or health care personnel individually, who were negligently active in the killing of their child (Frederico, Long & Jackson, 2018).

In the year 2001, in month of January the aunt of Victoria was found accused of her killing. The girl resided in a small apartment in Tottenham, North London, with Kouao along with her boy friend. Kouao was a french national and had always declined to physically abuse Victoria, whom she named the Anna, saying that the woman had sustained horrific injuries (Aynsley-Green, 2015). She also brought the daughter of her sister to a church to be ritually sacrificed and said the girl being just 8 years old had spirits of the dead in her possession. Kouao-the first person to present evidence in person during a public investigate convicted murderer – raved and ranted her for being innocent, said she was the casualty of a treason and castigate Victoria's parents on the day of Tuesday on January 8 January of the following year.

Manning the boyfriend of Kouao's was also found convicted of Victoria's death. The police took the statement of bus driver in which he stated in a horrifying confession which was presented in the hearing of court. The statement unfold the truth that, "If the girl after being beaten down would nor cry and will not say a word, instead she would be sit quietly and bear the pain." A video evidence was also played on 30th January on the day of Wednesday as a part of the investigation, the driver apologized for 'disgraceful' death of Victoria and said that her pain could not be attributed to agencies of child protection (Chambers, Williams & Halford, 2018).

Inter-Professional Working

Social Services

When Manning and Kouao were found convicted of girls assassination in the month of January in 2001, Victoria's designated Social Worker was dismissed by the council of Haringey. Ms Arthurworrey has been convicted of neglect by her supervisors, and of her lack of protection and support of a child's interests under her treatment, employed in a child welfare department in the north council of Tottenham Office. She said she was the offenders of an adole hunt and was inadequately monitored and recommended by her elderly, who said she had struggled with depression because the death of Victoria. Ms Mairs was also terminated by the council of Haringey as manager of social work and 2nd supervisor of Lisa Arthurworrey. Since her death, she was reported to have deleted a vital report from the record of Victoria and failed to secure childcare requirements (Duffy, Caldwell & Collins, 2016). At the hearing on 7th of December on the day of Friday, she refuted all charges.

Lisa Arthurworrey was the first boss of the new Social Work Administrator in Haringey. In the month of November in the year 1999, Ms Baptiste, a Christian born again, had found herself "professionally unqualified for her work." Mrs Arthurworrey replied that she was often unavailable from job and had supervisory trainings, instead of child welfare applications, speaking about her knowledge as a dark woman and her belief in god. Before the questionnaire, on 15th of January on the day of Tuesday, Mrs Baptiste appeared when she begged forgiveness from parents of Victoria (Fox, 2019). The same day, when she supervised the case of the girl in the year 1999, it turned out she developed a "severe psychotic mental disorder." Lord Laming, supervisor of the investigation into death of Victoria, under the powers conferred on him by the Local Government Act of 1972, threatened Ms Bristow, the director of residential housing and social workers at council of Haringey, with up to six months in jail. On 30th of November, the Chairman of the investigation sent her an appointment with all documents

relating to the case of Victoria which were still in the ownership of the Council before the investigation on the next coming Monday. He then turned 630 papers over to Haringey. Furthermore, after the disclosure of a further 71 papers on Victoria's trial at the end of the month of January, Ms Bristow also faces a potential prison sentence. She said that her child welfare personnel were not overworked during the inquiry on the day of Thursday on 30th of January (Low et al., 2015).

Hospital

In the month of July in the year 1999, a cut-off and blistered Victoria was examined by Dr. Ruby Schwartz, child specialist adviser and child protection health care professional at Central Middlesex Hospital. Kouao convinced Dr. Schwartz that the horrible damage induced by scabies in the baby was self-inflicted (Featherstone & Gupta, 2017). During the investigation on the day of Friday on 12th of October, the consultant confessed that they were accountable for a sequence of proceeding defects in the medical care of Victoria, which watched the girl reappeared to her victimizer. These comprises not writing a discharge letter and transmitting a letter from the social services officer to a local head of the house where the 8-year-old did not raise any consideration regarding child protection.

Child Specialist consultant Dr Mary Rossiter, chose to release Victoria from the Hospital of North Middlesex on the day 2nd of August in 1999. Although she was certain that this girl was neglect and abused. As Dr Rossiter spoke during her hearing on Monday, 12 November, he agreed to the assumption that after her release, the social services and police will examine the girl and decide to hold a child welfare meeting (Kettle, 2017). However she approved the suspicions of nurses and doctors that injusries of Victoria were intentional, and no session was being held.

Metropolitan Police

PC child welfare worker PC Karen Jones refused to inquire after Kuoao said they were ego-inflicted with Victoria's wounds. The prosecution were told by her on the day of Monday dated 19th of November that the residence of the girl in Tottenham was not checked out of fear of getting scabies. In spite of the fact that her psychiatrist told her that body of Victoria's markings conform with belt buckle wounds, the female police officer believed that there was no proof of abuse of child.

Alan Hodges was a sergeant that supervised the investigation of police for the accusations that the boyfriend of her grand-aunt's, Carl Manning, provocatively attacked Victoria (Popple, 2015). He said that social workers of Haringey deliberately hindered investigative inquiries into cases of child protection, disclosing facts at an investigation on the day of Tuesday on 20th of November. As an extremely difficult person to interact with, he has selected Social Work Director Angella Mairs. Nevertheless, when he joined team of child protection at council of Haringey in the month of October in the year 1999, Sgt Hodges confessed that he was not expert in satisfactorily supervising PC Karen Jones, the Victoria Protection Officer.

Six officers from the team of child protection in north-west of London were supervised by Chief Detective inspector Wheeler when Victoria died. An awful report was wrote by him describing "bereft" and "totally unacceptable" of proper organization for squad of Haringey involved in the case of the girl (Briggs & Whittaker, 2018). On the day of Thursday on 10th of January, he seemed to have be taken to the hospital after a woman splash an ink pot upon his skull. The next day, his old boss, Susan Akers (Chief Superintendent), said that he had exaggerated after he state that he was mostly "purely operational" in the teams' eyes.

Abuse and its Impact

Today, parents do not know that their children will eventually suffer from harm from one generation to another; their children are today abused by abusers of tomorrow. Parents or guardians probably won't understand the effect their child has on them until they consider the life style of their child's choice. Child abuse is in fact a mother or guardian abuse of a child, including negligence, hitting and sexual abuse. The report's wordy comment is child abuse, because children's abuse is a detrimental component of children's lives as well as the level of development in child life, leading to physical, behavioral or conductual consequences as they flourish. Cases of child exploitation can be classified into four forms: physical abuse, negligence and sexual abuse. The most prevalent type of abuse is neglect, based on the most recent recent research. Unable to do so implies the carers or parents don't give their children adequate attention and care. (Low et al., 2015). Child abuse deliberately hurts the child or do not give the child with the fundamental requirements. Children includes those type of children who have an experience of psychological neglect, who are ignorant and disconnected from the family of the distinction between punishment and violence. "In 2001, approximately three million children were identified as alleged survivors of violence and negligence to government agencies in the department of CPS (Child Protective Service). One million adolescents have been reported to have been exposed to sexual abuse (physical abuse, carelessness, sexual abuse, clinical carelessness, psychological abuse, etc.). To prevent the problem, it is important to recognize the factors of abuse of children. Professionals and specialists who assessed the environment and families of a busy child identify three causes of parental, ecological and child abuse. All kinds of child abuse irrespective of causes; somehow effect the child. Child abuse has different effects regardless of the type of abuse of children. Most of these results are either verbal or physical. Studies have found the significant impact on kids of emotional and sexual violence. Symptoms may be categorized for long-term and short-term effects (Hunt et al.,

2016). Child abuse effects vary from the abused child to the perpetrator and finally the whole community. Sociologists and committees on human rights have stepped up steps to pursue comprehensive wars on child abuse. Child abuse goes from physical, emotive to mental torture which takes special freedoms and rights away from the victim's child. In addition, child abuse has a large contribution internationally in many family members, both in the life and development of children, as a result of child abuse that is a negative aspect in a children's lives. Because child abuse happens through ethnic and cultural groups, all faiths and on all socio-economic levels and levels of education. A simple procedure for disclosing child abuse helps to prevent child abuse. Even offering optimism for a prosperous future to those who have been victimized. Child abuse also does not go anywhere, but 90% of the victims can be stopped. For example, if a parent stops, and only takes a minute to consider the implications of abusing the children in the long term. Consequently, only one fewer child would be harmed.

Conclusion

The West African girl was starved and tortured to death by her great aunt, Marie Therese Kouao, and the woman's boyfriend, Carl Manning, despite being known to four London boroughs, two hospitals, two police child protection teams and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The government ordered a statutory inquiry into Victoria's death headed by the former chief inspector of social services, Lord Herbert Laming. Not only was this investigation public but it was the first tripartate inquiry into child protection, investigating the role of social services, the NHS and the police, under the Children's Act, NHS Act and Police Act. The inquiry uncovered that child protection staff missed at least 12 chances to save Victoria. It also exposed a complete breakdown in the multi-agency child protection system established in the wake of the murder of seven-year-old Maria Colwell in 1973. Health,

police, housing charities and social services failed to work together effectively to protect the girl.

Recommendation

Lord Laming's final report, published in January 2003, concluded that the child protection system failed as a result of a lamentable lack of "basic good practice" by frontline staff and, most significantly, senior managers failing to take responsibility for the failings of their organisations. The report made 108 recommendations. Its main proposals were aimed at holding those in senior positions, from government ministers down to local authority chief executives, to account. At the national level it proposed a new agency for children and families, whose chief executive would be like a children's commissioner, to advise the government on the impact of proposed policies and scrutinise legislation, as well as reviewing serious child abuse cases. Other major recommendations included the setting up a national database recording every contact made by a child under 16 with the police, health and local authority services, to prevent them from getting lost in the system. A national database should keep a record of every contact every child under 16 has with the police, health and local authority services to prevent them getting lost in the system. Doctors who suspect children are being abused should take histories from them without their parents' consent. Councils should set up 24-hour helplines for the public to report concerns about children's safety.

Main Recommendations of Lord Laming

The main reforms proposed by his report are aimed at holding those in senior positions, from the government down to local services, to account for any failure to protect vulnerable children. A cabinet minister should chair a children and families board to consider the impact of all government policies on children and families. This should be supported by a national agency for children and families, possibly led by a children's commissioner. This would advise the

board on the impact of proposed policies; scrutinise legislation and guidance; advise on implementing the UN convention on child rights; ensure that policy and legislation are implemented at local level; and review serious cases of abuse. Every local authority social services department should establish a committee for children and families, with members from education, housing and social services, the police authority, and the local NHS. This committee should oversee the work of a management board for services to children and families. The board should be chaired by the council chief executive and include senior officers from the police, social services, NHS, education, housing, and probation. These local arrangements would be overseen by national inspectorates. The local committees would report through regional government offices to the national agency. The ministerial board would report annually to parliament.

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