



**By email**

Simon Adams QPM LLB  
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This matter is being dealt with by David Blake

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Our ref: DB/SEC

Date: 01 March 2018

Dear Simon

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2018. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding as I have been away from the office over recent weeks.

I would like to begin by referring to a comment in the first paragraph of your letter. Whilst Worcester City Council administers the funding allocated by the County Council for the service provision, the service for single and childless couples experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, has been jointly commissioned by all of the Worcestershire second tier authorities, and is reported through to the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership which is a multi agency group. This is an important point as I wouldn't want you to think that sole responsibility for the service rests with the City Council.

You are correct in your assertion that the Safeguarding Adults Board has determined that the case does not meet the criteria for undertaking a Safeguarding Adults Review. However following the publication of the Homeless Link Guidance we have taken the decision that in order to determine whether there are any lessons from which we can learn, an independent review will be undertaken.

As requested, I have attached for your reference the initial brief and terms of reference given to the external consultant undertaking the review of the case of Mr Cardon Banfield. I can confirm that the review is already underway and is being conducted by Neelam Sunder who has over 14 years experience of working within the homeless field and has a wealth of experience in leading, managing and advising on systems approaches to the support of homeless individuals.

As part of this review, interviews will take place with services and organisations that are known to have interacted with Mr Banfield within the 12 months prior to his death. Due to the limited service interactions that it would appear Mr Banfield had in that time, we have also instructed the consultant to widen the period under review to enable us to get a better understanding of the interactions Mr Banfield had with services across Worcestershire. I can confirm that Maggs Day Centre, St. Paul's Hostel and YMCA Worcestershire amongst others have been contacted and invited to share their knowledge of Mr Banfield and their views of systems approaches.

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The accessibility of services for service users will be considered as part of the review but direct contact will not be made.

Once this scoping work has been completed, the consultant is tasked with providing recommendations to improve systems approaches as part of the final review. These will be shared with appropriate stakeholders to ensure that lessons can be learned where appropriate.

An important caveat that I need to add is that other agencies are under no legal obligation to make information available and the comprehensiveness of the review will be dependent upon these agencies willingness to share information.

We anticipate that the review and final report will be produced by the end of March and will be made public in due course.

I would welcome the opportunity for you to meet with our Head of Strategic Housing Nina Warrington, and our Single Homeless Pathways Officer Ben Bradley, to discuss the findings of the report, and our commitment to ensuring support services for those who find themselves sleeping rough in Worcester.

Also, as noted in my email, I would be very happy to meet with you so that we can take the opportunity to discuss areas of mutual interest and gain a better understanding of our common agendas.

Yours sincerely



David Blake  
Managing Director

Enclosure