

Statement from a member of Edward's family

Back in 2020 my world shattered, Edward was a caring, funny, and mischievous young man, although sometimes he wouldn't do things the proper way. He loved his children so much and was always there for me despite the jokes and pranks he would play.

We as a family were let down more than once by the services we encountered, which is highlighted in this report, I cannot help but think about the what ifs. The pain, guilt and sadness are something I will have to carry with me for the rest of my life.

The report has made me reflect back on not only the way in which Edward died but also his childhood. His curiosity and laugh are something which I will always remember. I am still in touch with some of Edward's childhood friends, they share memories with me. I just wish there was more, perhaps if someone had reached out and supported us, instead of passing judgement and allowing us all to fall through the net there may have been.

The loss of Edward has left a huge hole not only in my life but for all of those who knew him, especially his children. Behind his facade there was a truly loving and caring person.

I decided to take part in the DHR process as the thought of another family going through what we have to breaks my heart. There are lessons to be learnt and I am hopeful that Edward's death won't be in vain, even if this helps one family. I truly hope that services change to prevent this suffering for others.