

Shannon Quinn impact statement provided by Shannon's sister

"On the 9th of January 2019 my little sister Shannon took her last breath at Oak House and she was ripped away from a family that miss her every single day. Her death was avoidable, and the neglect that she suffered was a direct contributory factor to her death. She didn't want to die: she wanted to be supported, she wanted to be safe.

My little sister was 24 when she died. She looked forward to a bright future despite the challenges she faced. She was a sensitive and gentle young woman; she loved animals; she read books with enthusiasm and passion; she was extremely talented and enjoyed art; she oozed creativity and she often advocated for justice, fairness and equality. She deserved her own justice and fairness and unfairly wasn't given that chance.

The impact this has had on our family has been profound. I myself was training to be a mental health nurse when my sister died, as the difficulties she faced from a young age inspired me to want to work to support people who struggled during crisis. Unfortunately, due to the traumatic nature of her death I'll never be able to revisit this aspiration as it would be too difficult.

My sister's niece has lost the opportunity to grow to know her aunty more, and her aunts, cousins & uncle have all been hugely impacted by her loss of, and the nature of her death. Shannon's friends would describe her as talented, loyal and caring and, of course, a true friend. She was a real loss to so many people.

Our mom sadly passed away at the beginning of 2023, but I would like to include some of her words:-

"On the day Shannon died my world crashed, exploded never to be the same again. My beautiful daughter was gone forever leaving me with a void so wide my world would never ever be the same again."

Unfortunately, Shannon's story is one of many similar experiences. There are many families that have lost their loved ones whilst they were meant to be protected and safe. Something has to change, because there have been many documented deaths that could have been avoided. This is a national crisis that truly needs to be taken seriously and neglect from services that are in place to help should never be the reason of any further avoidable deaths.

It is my hope that people who are neurodiverse and experiencing mental health crisis are supported properly and consistently throughout all services, and that therapeutic intervention is available and adhered to for all of the most vulnerable people in our society. It is also my hope that, moving forward, avoidable deaths will be prevented. A holistic approach must always be sought as multi agency approaches will be crucial in identifying support so vulnerable people's needs are met. I also want parent carers as well as vulnerable people at the centre of all planning and assessment - it is crucial that families' voices are heard, as parent carers can and do offer an invaluable insight into their loved ones' needs, into deteriorating mental health and play a key role in identifying the need for rapid intervention. It is crucial that placements sourced in and outside of statutory services are suitable and robust planning goes into ensuring that placements are and remain suitable."