

My brother Gavin was 15 years old when he passed away. He'd never had any serious health problems: he was very fit and athletic all his life, loved his sport and was a great sportsman. He was a very good cricketer and had played for many cricket teams, and at weekends he would play football for hours and hours with his mates. Gavin never argued with anyone and never had a bad word to say about anyone. He was such an amazing person.



He was a student at the Bourneville School and Sixth Form Centre. On the 18th of May he was doing a 100m race in school. He finished his race first, but collapsed and his heart stopped a few minutes later. An ambulance was called and he was taken to hospital. He had been without a proper blood supply to his brain for longer than 35 minutes. In the hospital they managed to revive his heart, but the doctors suggested that the prognosis was poor and he was unlikely to survive. He had suffered significant brain damage during the cardiac arrest. On the 22nd May our family had to make a dreadful decision to turn off his ventilator. He passed away peacefully with all his family around him.

Before that day my brother had suffered an episode of dizziness and headache. He also felt short of breath and had chest pains. We consulted the GP who said there was nothing to worry about and that it was probably a viral infection, as he had a slight temperature and a ringing sensation in his ear. Having read more about the type of arrhythmia he had and the National Service Framework I believe my brother should have been referred to a consultant. When he collapsed on 18th, the school's staff was unaware of the typical signs of an arrhythmia. Consequently, they were unable to give him any first aid or any form of basic life support, and there was no AED available in the school.

The errors and the wrong decisions that were made during the weeks that led to my brother's death and afterwards shows a significant lack of awareness. As a medical student I am personally ashamed of my own lack of awareness prior to this incident. I am further saddened by the fact that the medical profession still lacks awareness in this particular area.

What's done is done and my brother is never coming back to us. However, we will do anything we possibly can to stop another life from being lost and prevent another family from going through what we are going through today. This is what my brother would have wanted.