

# Millions in banking save our cash-crisis



Gunned down... Kai, 24

## 151 years in jail over gangland gun killing

By Paul Jeeves

SEVEN killers who blasted a rival in the chest with a shotgun were jailed for 151 years yesterday after one of the longest ever Old Bailey murder trials.

Kai McGinley, 24, was with two friends in a stolen Mini Countryman when a Land Rover Freelander careered into them on February 9 last year.

The killers jumped out of the 4x4 and a Peugeot 307 to fire five shots at the Mini with a pump-action shotgun, killing aspiring rapper Kai.

Anthony Wallder, 21, Bradley Reeve, 34, Enriko Spahiu, 21, and Kai Osibodu, 24, were convicted of murder and attempting to cause GBH with intent last month. They were cleared of two charges of attempted murder.

### Convicted

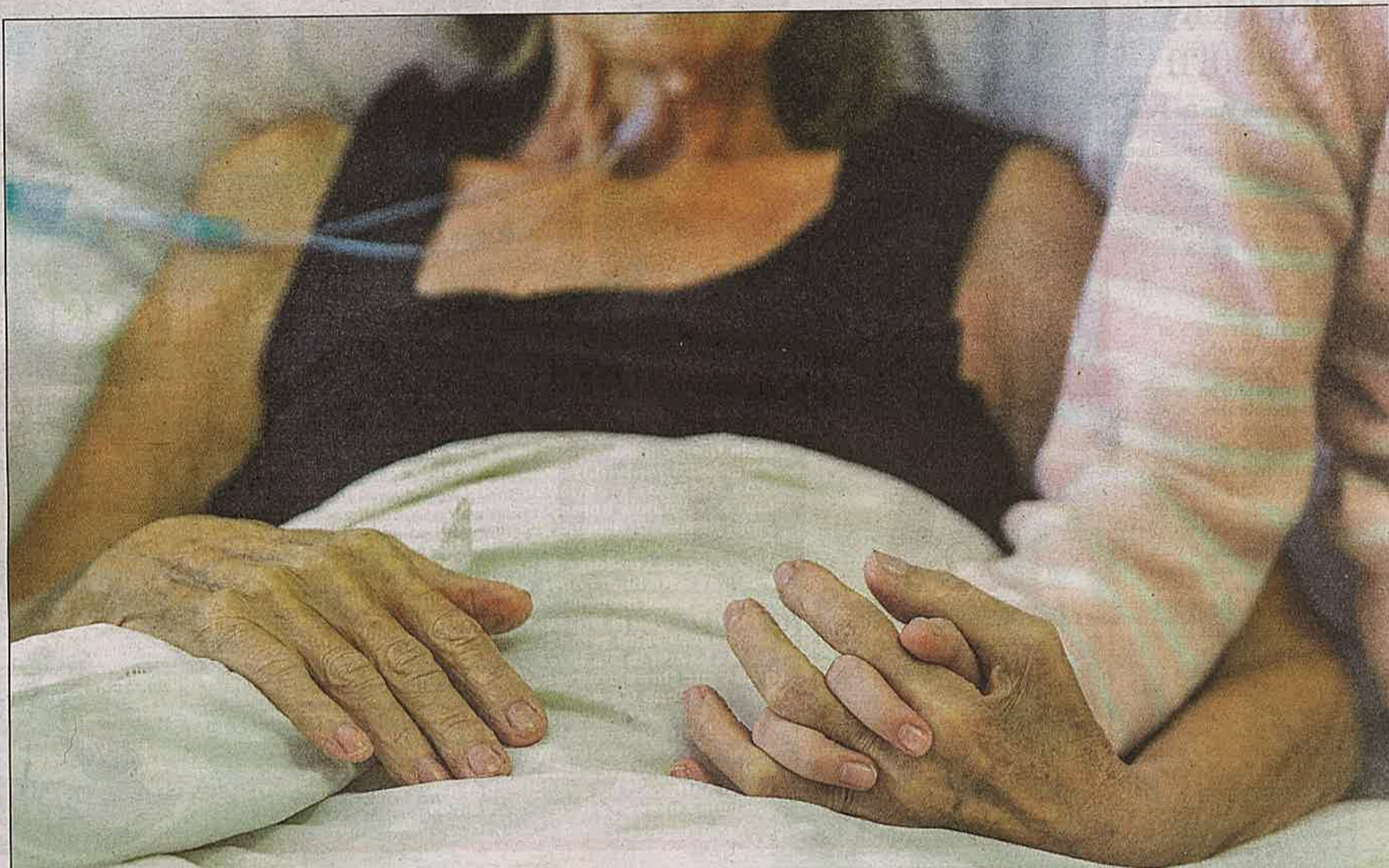
Connor Brooks, 21, Jalees Selby-Gangera, 18, and Charlie Brabon, 19, were cleared of murder and attempted murder but convicted of manslaughter.

When Wallder was advised by his barrister of the minimum sentence he faced for the gangland killing in Erith, South East London, he shouted: "Thirty years! For what?"

The trial, which began on January 15, was halted for two weeks after defence barrister Robert Woodcock, KC, died on January 30. There was also an electrical fire which closed the Old Bailey for three days.

The jury, who deliberated for 108 hours, had been told the case was expected to finish in early April.

Four defendants were jailed for life, with Reeve getting a minimum term of 33 years, Osibodu 30 and Spahiu and Wallder 29. Brooks was jailed for 12 years, Selby-Gangera for 9½ and Brabon for nine. They are all from Erith and Belvedere.



## Campaigners want FCA penalties to be used to fund care

BANK fines worth tens of millions could provide a lifeline for the struggling hospice sector, say campaigners.

One-fifth of these vital care facilities have slashed services and scores have warned staff of the threat of imminent and widespread redundancies amid a deepening cash crisis.

Figures show hospices are facing a collective deficit of £77million.

Campaigners want money from penalties issued by the Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates firms and financial markets in the UK, to be used to rescue the sector.

So far this year the FCA has issued £35,311,740 in fines, including over £27m to Citigroup Global Markets Limited for "failures in the firm's systems and controls".

The FCA operates independently of the Government but cash from fines helps to fund public services like the NHS, police and schools.

A coalition of cash-

By Giles Sheldrick  
Chief Reporter

strapped hospices says £100million drawn from a pot of penalties would help keep them alive – and now the group is poised to launch a petition demanding action.

The move is backed by 30 UK hospices, including Hope House Children's Hospices, which offers palliative care services in Shropshire, Cheshire and Wales.

Hope House director Simi Epstein said: "There are children and families who are suffering and too many get support too late or not at all.

We are a charity that aims to give every local child with a life-threatening condition and their family access to professional care and improve their quality of life from the point of diagnosis. We would like to encourage everyone to sign this petition so that we can ensure no one faces the death of their child alone."

Debbie McKenna, boss



Plea on petition... boss Simi Epstein

HOSPICE UK has long been warning about the immense financial pressure hospices are under. Costs are rising, funding has stalled, demand for care is growing.

Now services are being reduced. Hospices are treasured by their local communities, who try to fill the gaps left by insufficient government funding. Dedicated staff are desperate to provide expert care for dying people and their families, making it all the more painful when lack of funding means hospices have to make valued staff redundant.

Such large-scale redundancies in maternity services, dentistry, or GP practices would be unthinkable, yet this is the reality in end of life care

of Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland, said: "All care we provide is free at the point of delivery and, though there is mounting evidence hospice care nationally is underfunded and demand for hospice care is rising, we will continue to

### COMMENT

TOBY PORTER

Hospice UK  
Chief Executive



right now. The sector is reaching a crisis point.

As reported by the Daily Express, hospices are at risk of a "domino effect" of service reductions and redundancies if they are not urgently supported.

When hospices make cuts to their services those patients are put back through the NHS system, which is

deliver our clinical services. We receive an annual grant from the NHS but our income is largely from fundraising, donations and legacies from the public."

Birmingham Hospice triggered the start of a "domino effect" warning

# finances could be used to hospices from disaster

Compassion.. Jason, below right, and mum Susan. Below, son and mother



## 'I can't put a price on Mum's peaceful last three weeks'

By **Hanna Geissler**

**JASON** Newbiggin will be forever grateful for the compassionate care his mother Susan received from a hospice as she was dying of skin cancer.

She had been diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma which left her in awful pain.

The family cared for her at home for as long as possible but when things became too much Rowans Hospice in Portsmouth offered respite care and later took her in full-time.

Susan was given a room where she could watch through a window birds feeding and squirrels playing.

Jason, 52, said: "It took her mind off of what was going on.

"The hospice allowed us to stay as well so we took turns staying overnight with her.

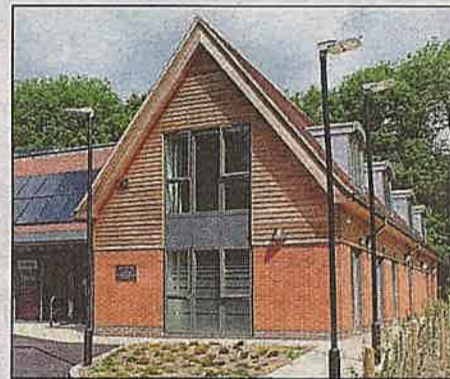
"I was here at the end and I don't think I could have asked for it to be any more peaceful.

"That will always stay with me because it was a very caring, compassionate and dignified ending."

Susan, whose hospice care was funded by the NHS, died aged 56 in 2007.

Rowans Hospice is now facing a significant shortfall between what it is paying out in costs and the income it is receiving.

It has been forced to cut back some



Respite care...Rowan's Hospice Portsmouth

services and make staff redundant. Jason said: "It is an absolute crying shame to see hospices having to scale back their services and lose staff.

"Rowans Hospice provided us with really important moments - my family and I cannot put a price on what is meant to her or us for those two or three weeks."

Deborah Paris, executive chairman of Rowans Hospice, said: "These are heart-breaking decisions to have made, but we have no other choice but to take these steps.

"Like many other hospices across the country, who are facing financial challenges, we are simply asking for a fairer and more equitable funding system to stop the postcode lottery that exists for end-of-life care."

already over-stretched. This means essential end of life care that could be provided by hospices is provided through the NHS at a greater cost to the public purse, not to mention with the risk of people missing out on the compassionate, person-centred end of life care.

Hospices need to be supported so people can get the care they need when dying.

We see a back and forth between NHS England and local Integrated Care Boards - the bodies that plan and fund services locally - over what funding is available and who can take action. While both blame the

other, hospice services are being cut. An immediate priority of the Labour Government must be to understand the scale of the challenge facing the hospice sector.

In their manifesto, Labour rightly made health and social care a priority, with a focus on reducing pressures in the NHS and on improving care in local neighbourhoods. Hospices are ideally placed to help, and stand ready to, with the right support.

Timing is critical for hospices, and we need to see swift action to avoid further cuts. We only have one chance to get it right at the end of someone's life.

that suffocating financial pressures had forced it to slash inpatient beds and cut the equivalent of 45 full-time roles - 14% of its workforce.

It was forced to act because of "unsustainable rising costs" and an estimated £2.4m deficit budget this

year. Most facilities providing end-of-life care are operating in the red and look set to follow suit in a crisis which experts said would flood the NHS.

Toby Porter, chief executive of Hospice UK, said: "We've recently

seen the worst financial results for the sector in 20 years with hospices facing a collective deficit of £77m. I really worry that what we are seeing in Birmingham will repeat itself across the country with, as ever, the most deprived areas hit the hardest.

"We think around one-fifth of hospices are already making cuts, and with the level of deficits in the sector, this will only go up. This situation can't go on."

Hospices are almost exclusively charities relying on voluntary income to continue services.

Some 200 facilities across Britain, collectively caring for 300,000 adults and children, have to fundraise 80% of their income from local communities - but sadly the reservoir of goodwill is drying up.

Two-thirds are receiving no more, or reduced levels,

Crusade...hospice boss Simon Fuller

of taxpayer-funded support. The average adult hospice in England gets 32% of its funding from health budgets while children's hospices get 17%.

Hospice leaders have contacted the NHS to negotiate additional funding, distributed via local integrated care boards.

But ICBs, which only replaced Care Commissioning Groups in 2022, are not yet ready to take on full responsibility for funding.

Without a rapid cash injection, services such as symptom control, short breaks and end-of-life care could be at risk, leaving families who are struggling even more exhausted.

Simon Fuller, chief executive of Birmingham Hospice, said: "The prospect of having to make highly skilled specialist clinicians and support staff redundant is totally unpalatable.

"We are doing everything we can to support all our

hospice colleagues. There is a growing need for palliative and end-of-life care and the NHS is unable to meet the huge demands on its beds.

"Most people do not want to die in hospitals, and hospices provide outstanding services that support people to die in a place of their choosing."

Corin Dalby, boss of community interest company Box Power, which is supporting the drive, said: "There are hundreds of millions in annual FCA fines which go into the Government pot. There is no better way to complete the circle by allocating these funds to hospices."

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "We want a society where every person, their families, and carers, receive high quality, compassionate care, from diagnosis through to end of life.

"The Government is going to shift the focus of healthcare out of the hospital and into the community. We recognise that the care system, including hospices, will play a vital role in doing this."

