

TITLE OF REPORT: LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

Purpose of the Report

To share learning from reviews with Corporate Parenting Board

Background

There have been a number of reviews carried out, locally, regionally and nationally. This report is intended to share learning from some of those reviews, and resources developed in response.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – Baby Alfie

A Rapid Review Meeting was held by Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership on the 22nd January 2021. This was in response to an incident where a young baby, who will be referred to in this report as Alfie, suffered significant injuries whilst in the care of his Mother and her partner. The Rapid Review Meeting identified the need to undertake a learning review. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel subsequently agreed there was value in undertaking a learning review and requested that it was published as a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

An independent reviewer, Chris Ring, was identified in September 2021 to undertake the review. Chris Ring is a registered Social Worker with 19 years experience working in a variety of statutory social work settings, both as a practitioner and manager. He is currently the Children and Families Principal Social Worker in a neighbouring Local Authority.

A multi-agency learning review workshop was held in October 2021. A draft review report was shared with representatives from partner agencies on the 6th January 2022 and the final report was presented and agreed by the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership on the 10th February 2022. This will now be shared with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel and What Works Centre for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) and published on our website (in line with [statutory guidance](#)).

Learning from the LSCPR will be shared across the partnership; suggest a more detailed summary be presented at the next CPB.

Learning review – Leaving Care Support for Parents

The aim of the learning review was to look at the quality of leaving care support offered to parents, and the risk assessment processes undertaken around the birth of second child with a different parent. A summary of key findings and recommendations is included with this report ([appendix 1a](#)) along with a 7-minute briefing ([appendix 1b](#)). Action plan is being overseen by the Quality, Learning and Practice Group.

7-minute briefing re LAC and Care Leavers ([appendix 2](#)) – developed by CCG in response to learning from case review in Newcastle.

Information Sharing

Case reviews consistently highlight the need to clarify when and how information can and should be shared; missed opportunities to record, understand the significance of and share information in a timely manner can have serious consequences for the safety and welfare of children and adults at risk.

It is essential that collaborative working and good information sharing is established throughout agencies, at all levels, which is then embedded through effective safeguarding practice.

The new Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) ([appendix 3a](#)) and flowchart ([appendix 3b](#)) has been developed to address information sharing both at strategic level and operational level within the arenas of Safeguarding Children and Adult Safeguarding. It is intended that agencies with the potential to be involved in safeguarding investigations will sign up to the use of this protocol. This protocol is agreed with the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The ISP has been formally approved by GSCP and SAB, with agreement from all agencies, and is now uploaded to the resource library within the procedure manual.

Professional Curiosity

Professional curiosity is a golden thread through all safeguarding learning reviews and audits and is an essential part of safeguarding.

Nurturing professional curiosity is a fundamental aspect of working together to keep children, young people and adults safe.

This 7-minute briefing ([appendix 4](#)) aims to raise awareness of the need for professional curiosity and advises where and how to access help and support.

Missing protocol

We recently updated our procedures regarding children missing from home and care ([appendix 5](#)); including responding to missing occurrences using 'levels of intervention' model.

Discussions have taken place regionally to consider our updated local protocol being adopted as the regional protocol and if this could then replace the current procedure (which is due a refresh and covers the same information). This is being considered by missing leads in the other areas but we hope to have this agreed by the end of February.

Multi-agency training re missing is planned for 1st April – this training will also cover MSET and the exploitation hub. One of our Young Ambassadors (who has lived experience) has asked to be involved with this training session.

Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the findings from the reviews and consider any actions.