**Case Study 3**

This is not a real case but contains some elements from different cases that have been part of a Rapid Review carried out in Telford and Wrekin.

**Background information**

Zara is an 18 month old baby girl who lives as part of a settled traveling community in Telford.

She has a 4 year old sister (Lana) and a 6 year old brother (Cian), neither Lana or Cian have ever attended school or an early years provision.

Zara lived with her siblings and both her mother and father on the travelling site.

**Incident**

Zara and her siblings were at their home when an ambulance was called because Zara had a fall and hit her head. When paramedics attended, they were met by Zara’s cousin who was looking after the children, the cousin’s age is unknown. The paramedics checked Zara over and Zara’s mother eventually came home whilst the paramedics where still present. The paramedics gave Zara’s mother some advice about head injuries and the decision was made that Zara was stable enough to not require hospital treatment. This incident was reported to Family Connect as the paramedics were concerned that the children were left alone with their cousin with no supervision from parents or another adult.

Family Connect requested that a Strengthening Families duty worker made a visit to the family to offer any additional support and gather any additional information. When the duty worker attended the traveller’s site, they struggled to find the correct address, an adult met them outside and stated that they were an uncle of the children and that the family were fine and did not need any support.

The next day, paramedics were called to Zara’s address again as she had suddenly collapsed. Sadly, Zara was pronounced dead. A subsequent CT scan showed that Zara had suffered a bleed on her brain.

Following the SUDIC process, CDOP and the police became involved with the family. Through this, it was discovered that there was evidence of neglect regarding supervision with Lana and Cian saying that they are often left at home unsupervised. Information was also shared that Zara did develop concussion symptoms at home after the paramedics had left, however no medical attention was sought by parents.

Through the child protection process, further information was shared by professionals. This included that the Health Visitor for Zara saw the family for Zara’s 6-8month old check and offered Early Help as they noticed some tension between mother and father. Mother consented to this support, however she did not engage with support apart from this initial discussion.

The education advisory teacher also made a previous referral to Family Connect as they were concerned about father’s coercive behaviour towards mother during a home visit. Family Connect requested the Health Visitor to review this at their next appointment as this was due imminently for Zara, however mother did not attend this appointment.

The travellers site in which the family live was known to the police for minor disturbances and anti-social behaviour in the lead up to Zara’s head injury. However it was always very difficult for the police to ascertain which family the police needed to attend.

**Outcome**

This incident met the criteria for a Rapid Review.

Please use the criteria for Rapid Reviews and the resources available (as well as any additional resources you may use in your service) to identify the learning from this case and how this could be implemented into practice.