

## CSPR 9 – Learning Briefing

**Background** – A CSPR was undertaken for an 8-year-old child who lived with their mother and two siblings in the Telford & Wrekin Council area. The child had significant additional needs. In late December 2020, the child was hospitalised after being found unresponsive in their home address. The following day concerns arose that bruising on their body indicated that they had sustained non-accidental injuries. Child J, then aged 16 and normally a resident outside of Telford, was temporarily staying in the same address as the child, due to both children’s parents cohabiting. Child J is a young person with complex needs, who, at that time, presented risks to themselves and others. West Mercia Police later arrested child J on suspicion of the attempted murder of the child, who subsequently made a full recovery. After considering the evidence gathered by West Mercia Police, the Crown Prosecution Service decided that there was insufficient evidence upon which the case could be advanced further.

### Positive and Proactive Steps

- The Telford and Wrekin Children Safeguarding Partnership have hosted a Trauma Informed Practice session which highlighted the need to ‘Ask Why’ and to look beyond the obvious.
- This session was further supported by the creation and dissemination of [Contextual Safeguarding, Practice Guide](#), [Professional Curiosity](#) 7 minute briefings
- Within Family Connect, address checks are part of standard operational practice when the address is not already known for a family. Should it be identified that a family resides out of Telford & Wrekin, a referral is completed to a relevant Local Authority.



### Process

Following receipt of the referral in January 2021 a Rapid Review was held where the panel agreed that the threshold for a joint Child Safeguarding Practice Review with the other local authority had been met. Immediate safeguarding actions were completed, and an independent author was sourced to undertake a joint review with both Local Authority Partnerships, with the review formally commencing in Spring 2022 with practitioners involved with the case, alongside managers from across the partnership and input from the families.

**Recommendations and Learning** – The learning identified in this review had three strands, learning applicable to both authorities individually, and together. The recommendation applicable to Telford and Wrekin are detailed below:

- To seek assurance from Telford and Wrekin Children’s Services that the Family Connect Customer Relationship Team always undertake necessary address checks in respect of referrals and notifications received.
- To ensure professionals are aware to look beyond the obvious or dominant risk(s) and consider risk more holistically.
- To advise all relevant partner agencies that when an agency become aware that a person who has been assessed as presenting a risk to him/herself and/or others is known to be staying in a different geographic location, the ‘home’ agency or agencies should be responsible for considering whether to conduct an assessment of any risks which may arise from the person’s presence in the different geographic area.
- To highlight the need to exploit any opportunity to gather information about a person who is visiting from a different geographic area and who may present risks to self and/or others.
- To explore the wider completion of hospital passports for children with complex additional needs with relevant partner agencies.