

Learning Briefing

Background:

This case review focussed on the death of a young person following suicide. In the months before their death, disclosing how they had been a victim of abuse which was being investigated by police. They had suffered with a history of self harm and overdoses which had led to hospital attendance. They had also been electively home educated prior to starting secondary school during the Covid pandemic. A social work assessment had been undertaken and support with an aim to help manage feelings was offered, which was subsequently reviewed as risks increased but support levels did not increase.

Positive and Proactive Steps Already Taken:

- The Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP) has completed a partnership wide Trauma Informed Practice training session
- All practitioners have been reminded of the need to always remain professionally curious with the circulation of a [7 minute briefing](#)
- The Resolution and Escalation Policy [Escalation Policy](#) has been reviewed and recirculated to all practitioners



Process:

Following receipt of the referral a Rapid Review was held where the panel agreed that the threshold for a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review had been met. Immediate safeguarding actions were implemented, and an independent author was sourced with the review formally commencing involving practitioners with the case alongside managers from across the partnership and input from the family.

Recommendations and Learning: Following completion of the report the following additional recommendations were made:

- reinforce the importance of all assessments being informed by a child's trauma and the importance of considering the parents' capacity to meet the child's needs is fully explored
- reinforce the need for professional curiosity and looking for reasons behind behaviours
- review arrangements for undertaking early help assessments and plans to ensure that when children have emerging needs, a co-ordinated early help response is offered and led by a Lead Professional.
- review escalation policy to ensure staff members understand the importance of escalating concerns about a partner agency to resolve the issue for the child and their family.
- seek assurance that the arrangements for monitoring home education take into account the child's holistic safeguarding and welfare needs
- seek assurance that the arrangements for investigating allegations of familial abuse outside of daytime services working hours are conducted in accordance with statutory guidance