

# Learning from Case Reviews

## 2017 Briefing #1



In May 2017, the TWSCB conducted a learning review following an incident that involved several adults and teenagers within the Telford and Wrekin area.

### Background

- Victim was a vulnerable adult who lived in a house of multiple occupancy (HMO) with other young adults.
- Victim was held hostage and assaulted regularly by 7 people varying in range from 16 to 24 years of age over a period of four weeks.
- Victim and perpetrators had a history of multi-agency involvement, especially as children.

### Themes emerging from the review

- Suitability of placements and housing – causing a potentially toxic environment
- Role and responsibility of safeguarding for housing providers and private landlords
- Victims becoming offenders
- Historic and current domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues (toxic trio)
- Children's emotional health and wellbeing and future impact
- Victim and perpetrator invisibility in assessments/agency involvement when children
- That perpetrators can be both male and female

### The Recommendations

1. The TWSCB should ensure that all housing providers and private landlords are aware of their responsibility for safeguarding.
2. The Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adult Board (TWSAB) should promote understanding of financial abuse across the Borough, including with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
3. The TWSCB should establish what the housing offer is for vulnerable people and if there is a quality, suitable provision in the Borough.
4. TWSCB to include in multi-agency case file audits a question around whether the whole family have been considered as part of the assessment process (invisible siblings).

### What should you do?

- Question if the placement/housing situation is suitable, taking into consideration the others in that setting
- Understand financial abuse, how this can manifest and how to report it.
- Be professionally curious
- Consider the long term impact of toxic trio issues
- Be aware that perpetrators can be both male and female, as most people do not see females as perpetrators