



Learning Review Briefing Note

Background

- Multi-agency Round Table Learning Review was conducted on a case where indicators of neglect were reported but not acted on in a multi-agency manner.
- Subsequently, the children were accommodated and the parents charged with cruelty to a person under 16.
- Parents were well known to services, including children's services when children themselves.
- There was evidence over a period of years of poor home conditions, suspected domestic abuse, mental health conditions and substance misuse (cannabis).

What did we learn?

- Understanding of professional's roles and responsibilities during the period of time to the removal of the children varied.
- There was a lack of understanding across the partnership about recording and sharing information in Family Connect.
- Concerns around some professionals' understanding of the threshold document and the use of graded care profile tool.
- Escalation procedures were not utilised.
- Application of the threshold document varied across the partnership and the response to referrals was not always proportionate and outcomes focused.
- Consideration and analysis of historical information and reoccurring themes was not present in all agencies' assessments. This led to professionals not understanding the needs of the family in a systemic and whole family manner.
- Information sharing and timeliness of plan development prevented a coordinated multi-agency response to this family earlier.
- It was difficult to understand the child's daily lived experience from the records reviewed.

Recommendations

1. Information is shared to all professionals around the recording and sharing processes in Family Connect to provide a consistent message to all the workforce.
2. Multi-agency staff are appropriately trained in the Graded Care Profile2 so that practitioners are supported when reporting concerns and the GCP2 tool is used to evidence them.
3. The TWSCB to review and relaunch the Multi-agency Escalation Procedures; all partners to be aware of the updated procedure.
4. The TWSCB to review the initial strategy meeting thresholds to ensure there is consideration of known history, patterns and concerns. Where reoccurring themes are being presented by different agencies over a period of time, it allows for a strategy meeting to be convened.
5. All agencies to ensure safeguarding audits include reviewing plans, ensuring they are SMART and shared with those involved, including parents, in accordance with agreed timescales.

What should you do?

- Don't forget to consider historical and toxic trio factors in assessments
- Use the threshold document and appropriate tools when referring cases to Family Connect.
- Make sure you're aware of your agency's escalation process and how and when to use it.
- Always record the child's daily lived experience.
- Read the governments information sharing guide for safeguarding services:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

For the full multi-agency child protection procedures please follow this link: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>