

Review August 2024

7 Minute Briefing

1. Purpose

This briefing shares key learning from a recent safeguarding review to help improve practice and keep children safe

2. Type of Review

Local Learning Review

3. Reason for Review:

This review took place following a complaint investigation recommendation. The complaint raised the following issues:

- Whether there was a misuse of authority by the Local Authority given the evidence supplied for the use of the Public Law Outline (PLO) and for the escalation from Child in Need to Child Protection. This includes:
 - The evidence for a child to be included in any Children's Social care intervention.
 - The evidence of mental health concerns including depression
 - The evidence of domestic abuse from the ex-partner, and father to the children.
- The communication between multi-agency professionals to the family and between agencies.

4. Key Learning Themes

- Communication between professionals and mother
- Escalation within process and escalation policy
- Evidence based practice
- Information shared with context and relevance
- Joint decision making across the partnership, all agencies' voices being heard
- Child's voice

5. What Good Practice Looks Like

- ✓ School staff verbally and openly challenging a child protection plan.
- ✓ Clear documentation throughout the child's file of these challenges.

6. Actions for Practitioners

- ✓ All practitioners should maintain a high level of communication with the family and other agencies involved.
- ✓ The family network should be explored for every child, by all professionals.
- ✓ Professional challenge should be heard and listened to. In cases where agencies do not feel they are being heard, the escalation process should be followed.
- ✓ Professionals should be very aware of the language they use. This should be non-judgemental, not emotive, and non-value based.
- ✓ It is important to share information across the partnership. Practitioners should ensure that this is relevant and that context for the information sharing is also provided. Practice should be evidenced based.

- ✓ All agencies working with children and families should make every effort to cross reference information to assist with a holistic assessment.

7. Resources & Support

- Training opportunities: [Safeguarding Children's Partnership Training offer](#)
- Guidance:
 - [Escalation](#) procedure
 - [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Online Procedures](#)

8. Points for consideration

- How does this learning apply to your role/agency?
- What changes can you make in your practice?