

Rapid Review February 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

Rapid Review February 2024

3. Reason for Review:

An adult male was arrested during a preplanned police operation on suspicion of upskirting. Examination of phones and other IT recovered pictures of his partners child, as well as other children. There had been previous involvement in response to allegations made by the partners child.

4. Key Learning Themes

- The child's voice being heard and listened to whether there is a verbal or non-verbal disclosure
- Concerns around how allegations of sexual abuse are risk assessed and how safety planning is developed. Although there was lots of communication with parents during the initial assessment – there was no standalone risk assessment to understand the risk posed by mother's partner.
- Professional curiosity across the partnership to understand the children's voices and lived experiences
- Domestic abuse - the absence of physical violence does not indicate a reduced level of risk and nor does separation

5. What Good Practice Looks Like

- ✓ When one agency is involved, they should explore information with other services and not rely on the single voice of a parent
- ✓ School can be utilised as an opportunity to understand a child's disclosures further and support the building of trust between the social worker and the children.

6. Actions for Practitioners

- ✓ When undertaking safeguarding checks with other agencies including education, ensure that relevant information is shared, and that information is validated and that we are not reliant on the single voice of the parent/s. This can enable agencies to develop an accurate and holistic picture of the child and their lived experiences.
- ✓ Safety plan should be child focused and should not place any emphasis on the child to take action to protect themselves.
- ✓ Supervision should be used to challenge and question the practice of the social worker and wider partnership.

- ✓ There should be professional curiosity and explicit conversations with children during follow up discussions, rather than using open ended questions to avoid being leading which puts the ownership on the children raising issues.
- ✓ Listen and respond to a child's voice and experiences whether there is a verbal or non-verbal disclosure. This can include child observations and understanding of behaviours that may reflect harm and distress.
- ✓ Consider if a standalone risk assessment to understand the risk posed by a mother's partner is required.

7. Resources & Support

- Training opportunities: [Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Training offer](#)

8. Points for consideration

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