

Rapid Review April 2025

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 April 2025

3. Reason for Review:

In the early hours North West Ambulance services attended the home address of a 4-week-old baby following a 999 call from the father, that their baby was unconscious. On arrival the crew observed that the baby was acutely unwell and transferred her immediately to hospital.

4. Key Learning Themes

- Physical abuse - There was no information presented to the rapid review which would have indicated that the significant physical abuse could have been prevented.
- Mother's neurodiverse needs – she had vulnerabilities which included being autistic.
- Professional curiosity – it was acknowledged by midwifery services that they could have been more professionally curious about the father and his history.

5. What Good Practice Looks Like

- ✓ The care and advice provided by the midwifery services is of a high standard and provided the parents with a significant amount of support.
- ✓ GPs offer referral to specialist services and provide sleep resources and emergency contact numbers for mental health support.
- ✓ Health Visitors reinforce safe sleep, ICON, and safe use of formula milk and liaise GPs when needing to formulate a plan to support a baby's health and development.

6. Actions for Practitioners

- ✓ GPs should code information for new patients when transferring into their practice in a timely way.
- ✓ Midwifery services to be more professionally curious about a father's history; particularly regarding mental health issues which could prompt a request for dad's consent to obtain his GP records to support the assessment of the risk.
- ✓ Police to ensure that all available material is appropriately reviewed ahead of a Strategy Meetings.
- ✓ Midwifery to ensure that the Autism passport is always attached to the maternity handheld records.
- ✓ Consent to be sought from patients to add an autism spectrum disorder risk marker.

- ✓ The hospital passport belongs to the patient and should stay with her for any hospital admissions.
- ✓ Where police are implementing bail conditions, appropriate safeguarding checks to be undertaken and the action and result recorded to ensure that the bail conditions are being followed.
- ✓ Universal antenatal opt in letters should always be sent, even if the patient is registered with a GP outside of Cheshire East.
- ✓ Mental health care plans with midwifery should always be shared with health visiting services at the point of referral.

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?