

# Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Domestic Abuse September 2020

Organisations that audited their involvement with the 10 cases were: Children's Social Care, Preventative Services, GP, Police, Sirona and AWP/Camhs, EDT, NBT, YOT, Education and Next Link

The audit of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 reviewed the records of ten children who living in households where there is domestic abuse. The names were selected by the social care representative.

The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures.

Max is a two year old boy subject of a child protection plan. Most recent domestic abuse incident was in July 2020

Marie is in Year 10 at school. Domestic abuse incidents in April & May 2020  
Marie sustained an injury during the most recent incident

Megan is a year 11 student with a child in need plan, and there had been concerns for a while about her and her siblings at school. Most recent domestic abuse incident in April 2020

Mason is an eleven year old boy transitioning to secondary school. Most recent domestic abuse incident was in April 2020

Morgan  
*(case audited but not discussed at audit the meeting)*

Baby M was an unborn baby at the time of the audit who has now been born and is subject of a child protection plan. Older siblings do not live with mother

Madison is age 5 and attends school in reception although her school were not aware of the DA incident

Melissa  
*(case audited but not discussed at audit the meeting)*

Mia is 18 months old and is subject of a child protection plan. Most recent incident in August 2020

Mandy is a preschool child who attends nursery. The nursery were not notified of the incidents but did identify concerns and made their own referral



### What is Working Well:

- Good multi agency working with Baby M and attempts to include midwifery, good communication between Health Visiting and Social Care
- Flags and alerts being used in record keeping
- Good information sharing evident for Mandy and Mason between lighthouse and Next Link
- Good engagement of Mandy's mother with Next Link
- Good voice of the child identified with Marie
- Evidence of good multi agency working with Marie and Mason and Max
- School worked well with transition to secondary school for Mason
- Really good information sharing for Mia and GP records show good multi agency communication

### What are we Worried about:

- Only Social care gave information about the voice of the child for Baby M
- No evidence from information submitted that a referral to Nextlink was discussed with Mum of Baby M
- The audit identified an issue with spelling of unusual names and being able to find a child in organisation systems
- Delay in Domestic Abuse notifications – this is a known issue being monitored by the Children's Partnership
- Accuracy of information on Connecting Care – mini audit check will take place to check if CP plans are evident
- Theme emerged through the audit of children being exposed to domestic abuse over a long period of time with multiple partners, and ensuring that incidents are not seen in isolation

### What Needs to Happen?

- Use of Escalation when there is non attendance at meetings as well as when there is professional disagreement, one page summary being collated as a result of this audit to help with contacts
- Nursery providers should be sent domestic abuse notifications
- All organisations should check that any alerts about not disclosing addresses are clear on the electronic recording system for anyone who accesses the file
- Ensure that DA incidents are not seen in isolation, but ensuring the cumulative effect of long term exposure to domestic abuse is fully understood
- Ensure practitioners are aware of specialist domestic abuse service available in South Gloucestershire – Next Link <https://www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk/southglos/>
- Ensure when stepping down, that support remains around the child(ren)

