



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 3 and 18 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs including autism, global developmental delay, challenging behaviours, mental health issues, risk of suicide/self harm, selective mute, anxiety, Learning Disability & physical medical needs

What we are worried about?

- Reliance on parent voice, no voice of child
- No flag on records with Child in Need status for EHCP
- Regular Child in Need meetings and well attended but no smart action plan
- Gaps in timeliness of communication between professionals
- Lack of attendance at school
- Perplexing Presentation and not clear assurance in partner records that this has been fully assessed and managed
- Resolution of Professional Differences (Escalation) Policy not used
- Lack of evidence of transition planning for a young person approaching 16
- Frequent change of social worker impacting relationships with child and family for 2 children
- For 2 children no voice of father evident
- Communication about ICPC cancellation – decision making around S.47 was not clear to partners, although no escalation
- Record keeping about self harm not available to all professionals who need it
- GP invites to CiN meetings not consistent

What Good Practice did we see?

- Good multi agency working and communication
- Regular contact with family and collaboration with plans.
- Support for siblings in place and respite care for family wellbeing
- Use of holistic therapies
- Voice of child heard via observation for two non verbal children
- Evidence that EHCP is addressing child's needs
- Good support by mentoring service, with great impact on the child
- Two audits with very good voice of child and one attending their own review meeting
- Perseverance by professionals
- Interim support provided to family when on the waiting list – check in calls

The audit of 12th Dec 2023 reviewed the records of ten children who have a an EHCP (Education & Health Care Plan) and are Child in Need.

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.



Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services, Education.



Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Children with Education Health & Care Plans Dec 2023

Themes for Learning: Plans

- Regular meetings but action plans not SMART
 - Not clear how risk is assessed
 - Lots of professionals involved but not clear what everyone is doing
 - Not all professionals working with child known and confusion about support provided
 - Voice of child not captured, reliance on parent voice
- Always ensure there is a clear plan including timescales and who is responsible for actions



Always consider how to capture voice of child even when they are non verbal



Use of medical terminology but lack of context and explanation about how this impacts the child



When there are concerns about decisions made by another agency the escalation policy should be considered
Click for more



'Perplexing Presentation' is the terminology now used in place of 'fabricated illness'
Click for more

Themes for Learning

What we found: It can be overwhelming for families when there are multiple professionals involved

- Some of the plans were ineffective because of parents being overwhelmed
- Reliance on parent causing additional pressure
- Meetings being missed

What needs to Happen?

- Consider joint visits
- Make sure visits and contact is as co-ordinated as possible
- Professionals ensure their contact and associated plans are giving consistent messages
- Consider the easiest way for the family to engage and work with what suits them best

South Glos Way Toolkit here

Disabled Children's Guidance here

Resolution of Professional Differences policy here

To access information about Sirona Services and how to contact click here

NB: All ten children were audited but only 6 were discussed in the audit meeting in December