



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 9 and 17 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including exploitation, substance misuse, childhood trauma, criminal behaviour, parental alcohol misuse, bereavement, parental domestic abuse, EHCP, Autism, diabetes, mental health, coercive control, ADHD



The audit of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 reviewed the records of ten children where there is child to adult abuse. 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, Next Link, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services, Education.

### What we are worried about?

- Long term involvement but unable to sustain long term change, repeat CP plans for a child
- Flags on records can become out of date, and can 'label' a child inappropriately.
- Impact of trauma for 2 children following the death of a friend
- Lack of voice of child in police records – and young person only considered as a 'perpetrator' Voice of parent dominant in GP records rather than child
- No evidence of work for a 17 year old transitioning into adulthood
- Delay in circulation of minutes/ updated plans following CiN meetings
- Long waiting list for ASD assessment
- Camhs not included in multi agency meetings because child was on a waiting list at the time, and not yet been seen

### What Good Practice did we see?

- Good understanding about exploitation and multi agency working – good information sharing across the audit group
- Strategies, core groups and MARMM meetings well attended
- EIT (Exploitation Identification Tool) has been completed when required, but not evidence of timely review
- Words and Pictures work evident in records
- Non Violent Resistance (NVR) work with two children via Waypoint
- Use of music therapy considered for one child
- Risks are managed by agencies working together
- Evidence of alerts and flags on records
- Direct work underway during an assessment, good safety plans for a family
- Good use of Waypoint in several cases and relationship work being undertaken to help improve and strengthen family relationships.



### Themes for Learning: Working with Trauma

- Consider what has happened in the child's life – as well as dealing with the presenting behaviour
- Recognising vulnerability in a child who is repeatedly presenting as a perpetrator, it is easy to lose sight of the child and their vulnerabilities.
- Be curious, rather than looking at situations on face value.
- Evident that for all of the children reviewed for this audit have experienced significant trauma in earlier childhood, and often domestic abuse.



Multi Agency Training about Trauma is available by clicking here



When you add a flag to a child's record, this needs to be evidence based and reviewed to ensure it remains accurate



Language: think about how you describe a child's behaviour when there is child to parent conflict happening, and be careful about 'blaming' terminology



Use **bold text** in recording to identify the voice of the child or parent and help it jump out and be seen

Ten cases were audited by the multi agency group and six of these were discussed during the audit meeting

# Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Child to Adult Conflict July 2024

### Themes for Learning

#### What we found: There was a history of exposure to Domestic Abuse for this group of children

- Although the theme of the audit was not domestic abuse (between the adults), it was evident in all of the cases.
- There is complexity of children's experience and resulting trauma they are displaying through behaviour

#### What needs to Happen?

- There is new multi agency domestic abuse training available provided jointly by the children's partnership and safeguarding adults board
- Ensure that practitioners are aware of and book places on this training from all organisations

Domestic Abuse Training click here

Click here for Child Exploitation resources

Domestic Abuse Resources available by clicking here