



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 6 and 16 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including substance misuse, ADHD, exploitation, parental alcohol misuse, domestic abuse in the family home, parental mental health, physical health conditions

What we are worried about?

- Different ethnicities have been recorded in different organisation's records for the same child
- Some children have no ethnicity recorded at all, lack of protected characteristics in records
- Bullying disclosed, not clear if this is related to race
- Lack of evidence about how race, ethnicity and culture may shape family values, beliefs, attitudes
- GP doesn't know child has a CP ROTH plan
- Children not identified as victims of DA in own right
- Possible perplexing presentation
- School saying not seeing change related to CP plan
- Multiple CP plans for a child
- No evidence of consideration of race for carer who is white for example hair and skin care.

Ethnicity of children:

- 'Mixed multiple' x2
- White, South European, White North European
- Other Mixed background
- White Somalian
- Black

What Good Practice did we see?

- Access to Early Intervention Team
- Use of interpreters for meetings
- Use of play therapy
- Joint visit with social worker and Next Link
- Evidence of appropriate flags on records, apart from CP ROTH for GP
- Engagement on Men & Masculinities course
- Some exploration about cultural expectations of women with Dad
- Advocate provided for Dad
- Pastoral support at school around ethnicity and belonging

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Disproportionality May 2026



Themes for Learning: Intersectionality

Alongside race the audit saw children with

- ADHD
- Autism
- Neurodivergence
- drug use
- exploitation
- Communication difficulties, learning needs
- Poverty
- Exposure to domestic abuse



It is important to consider what the race of the child means for them and their identity?

Some of the children identify as white British and self define, some children do not know their own ethnicity



Ask, discuss, document your conversations about race and heritage



Adultification:
need to make sure we use the word **child** for under 18s



When you record that someone is a 'trusted adult' - is that your view or does the child say this too?

Click for Its
Silent: Race,
Racism &
Safeguarding
Children



Remember disproportionality is wider than just race and consideration of intersectionality is important

Themes for Learning - Considering Race and Identity What we found: This is not being included in assessments

- Reliance on perception and assumption
- Open curious questions about ethnicity, race and culture and what this means for the child and/or family are not evident in the audit children

What needs to Happen?

- Proactive questions and consideration to ensure ethnicity is considered and included in assessments and care planning by all professionals in terms of understanding care needs, and the impact or culture and race on the child and family
- Don't just record ethnicity – ask what this means for them.
- Demonstrate cultural humility

The audit of 18th May 2026 reviewed the records of ten children on the theme of disproportionality, following the National Panel report 'It's Silent: Race Racism and Safeguarding Children' The aim of the audit was to ascertain how race and ethnicity are considered for the 10 children and 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, UHBW, AWP, Next Link, Police, YJS, EDT, Preventative Services, Education.

