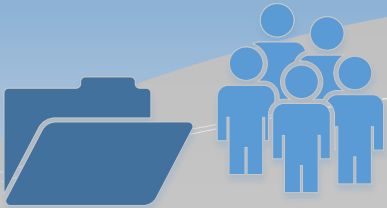


Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Early Help March 2023



The six children chosen for this audit were aged between 7 months and 17 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs including child and parental mental health, anti social behaviour, substance misuse, sexual exploitation, trauma, domestic abuse, parental offending

The audit of 1st March 2023 reviewed the records of six children who are involved with organisations under Early Help. 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.

What we are worried about?

- Quick escalation of MH concerns and no Camhs input
- Long waiting list in 'health' for one child
- Child being viewed as a suspect
- Unclear if Resolution of Professional Differences policy is being used
- Difficulties getting mental health support, especially when approaching adulthood
- Strategy minutes not shared with police or education
- 14 month waiting list for The Greenhouse
- Liaison with probation not seen with a release from prison imminent
- Full Dental Extraction doesn't seem to have been referred to CSC as a safeguarding concern or shared with school
- One case with no GP or Health Visitor awareness of what was happening for the child

What Good Practice did we see?

- Multi agency working was effective and good communication
- Co-ordinated step up to CSC, management oversight on the file evident and information from multiple professionals included
- Past adversity of parents included in assessment
- Consistent follow up from GP, signposting from School nurse and GP
- View of father clear, and voice of child 'in their own words' inclusion of grandparents
- Joined up working with The Bridge
- Trusting relationship with family support worker
- High quality assessments, voice of a baby captured.
- Individualised practice with a child to support with an upcoming hospital event

Organisations that audited their involvement with the six children were: GPs, Children's Social Care (CSC), AWP, Sirona, NBT, Police, YOT, Emergency Duty Team (EDT), Preventative Services, Education.



Themes for Learning

Use of multi agency professionals meeting

- Valuable to ensure the information held by organisations is known when making decisions and when considering step up or step down
- Supports effective risk management
- Co-ordinated step up with multi agency input leads to a smooth step up for the child and family



The step up and step downs seen in this audit were made at the appropriate time



When there are concerns that there should be a 'step up' a multi agency meeting ensures a clear understanding of all the available information



When a child has a significant dental extraction the dentist should always consider whether this should be shared with other agencies



Understanding Thresholds. There is a bitesize session that covers Early Help, Preventative services and children's social care – free for all professionals – [click here](#)

[Click here for the resolution of professional differences policy \(Escalation\)](#)

[Click here to get further information about The Greenhouse](#)

Themes for Learning

What we found: Young People who have been a victim of sexual assault are being offered healthy relationships work

- This might be really helpful, but need to ensure there is no blame for a victim so careful consideration needed

What Needs to Happen?

- DGF Psychology commissioned to provide support about Harmful Sexual Behaviour, including workshops for professionals and schools from Sept 2023.
- Schools will be asked about how much information is covered in PHSE

What we found: The voice of children was heard for all children in this audit

- This was even evident for a baby and key observations recorded
- For one case one sibling's voice was 'louder' and this meant another child's voice was missing



Day in the Life of a Baby Tool

Day in the Life of a Child Tool