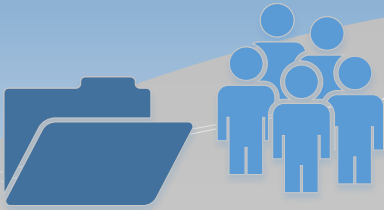


Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Engagement with Fathers December 2022



The audit of 6th December 2022 reviewed the records of eight children who have a child protection plan or are Child in Need and the aim was to look specifically at whether Fathers and partners have been included.

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.

The eight children chosen for this audit were aged between 2 and 16 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs including exposure to exploitation, ADHD, ASB, fabricated illness, domestic abuse, parental alcohol misuse, neglect, parental mental health

What we are worried about?

- No inclusion of father, or Mum's new partner by any practitioner in all but two cases
- Voice of child overshadowed by sibling with higher needs in two cases
- No evidence of any preventative work with abusive partner despite 10 year pattern
- Lack of professional differences or escalation used
- Two cases could have been stepped up to CP earlier, and this is being reviewed internally by CSC
- Pre-verbal observations to 'hear' child's voice missing

What Good Practice did we see?

- Referral to Off the Record by GP
- Good multi agency working and info sharing, communication
- Voice of child and mother clear
- Responsive practice by police
- Dad included from the outset and evidence of his views in the record and at CP Conferences.
- School arranged counselling in school to support the child and provided wraparound support
- Evidence of Dad attending a group organised by Preventative Services
- Neglect Toolkit used

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



Themes for Learning

Incidents of Domestic Abuse and of Neglect being seen in isolation

- Accumulative impact of abuse should always be considered and included in the
- Impact of trauma
- Challenge for practitioners about parents capacity to change and over optimism by professionals when small change is seen, that is not sustained



Domestic Abuse information, toolkits and MARAC details are all available here



For all cases there was an over reliance on information from Mothers. Fathers and Partners not involved



Abusive parent removed from the family should not lead to automatic assumption family is safe



Ensure that Safety Goals and scaling questions are outcomes focussed and presented to all involved professionals consistently

Themes for Learning

What we found: Younger siblings voice not being heard when older sibling is at risk of exploitation?

- Two of the children audited have older siblings known to be at risk of exploitation
- Audited children felt to be 'invisible' with practitioners focus was clearly on the older child

What Needs to Happen?

Practitioners should make sure the voice of each child is heard and recorded, especially when there is a risk of another sibling having higher levels of need.

This theme was highlighted in a Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) about Cross Border Peer on Peer Abuse and CCE



Resolution of Professional Differences Policy is here

NEW Professional Curiosity Training is available here For practitioners from all settings

