



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 5 months and 16 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs including exposure to Domestic Abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, FGM, parental mental health, physical abuse, parent in prison/parental offending, disability, temporary housing, parental substance misuse, exploitation, some of these children are being cared for by other family members rather than parents



The audit of 6th June 2023 reviewed the records of ten children who have a child protection plan or and the aim was to look specifically at responses to children and families from minority ethnic backgrounds. 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.

What we are worried about?

- Father's voice absent across most of audit cases
- Voice of child not being captured from pre-verbal children, recorded as too young
- Plans closing when still unmet need, lack of engagement
- Lack of teenagers voice and direct work to explore identity
- Lack of use of tools, neglect toolkit, DASH
- Cultural barriers not fully explored
- One strategy discussion did not have a health rep
- Lack of progress with plans made, cancellation of meetings at last minute
- No evidence of escalation when there are concerns
- Non- Attendance at school not being considered as a safeguarding issue
- No words and pictures work for a child to help them understand their story

What Good Practice did we see?

- ICON information provided at birth and 6 week check
- Timely Prohibitive steps order to protect from FGM and FGM toolkit used
- Good communication between social care and police, timely multi agency working
- Child and family included in GP Practice safeguarding discussions
- Voice of child captured well in school
- Confidence of young person to contact the police
- Support by education setting for children and families
- Good communication between probation and social care and good multi agency work between Camhs and social care
- Strong and tenacious multi agency work but still not impacting change for one child, consistent professionals in place

This audit identified differences in the ways that ethnicity is recorded by different agencies and recording systems which impacts on identity. It also found that some children identify differently to their recorded ethnicity



Themes for Learning: Domestic Abuse

- Mixed decisions about category of a CP plan when domestic abuse is the main issue in a family
- Any practitioner can complete a DASH
- There is a Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Toolkit but this audit did not find evidence this is being used
- Need to ensure adverse experiences of parents are understood, and the impact of this on their parenting considered, in order to work in a trauma informed way
- Value of joint visits evidenced through this audit



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



If a child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) make sure this is included in plans and shared



When working with a family who don't have English as a first language, always consider an independent interpreter



Over-focus on older sibling and child audited at risk of being 'hidden' from professionals

Neglect Tools click here

Professional Differences Policy click here

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Ethnicity and Child Protection June 2023

Themes for Learning

What we found: Parent who did not speak English attended meetings without an translator and on one occasion a family member was used to translate for them

- Best practice is that an independent translator is always used
- Even when a document has been translated into another language it is important to consider literacy of family members as it still may not be accessible to them if they cannot read.

What needs to Happen?

- Seek an in-person translator if you are having a face to face meeting with a child or family
- Check with your organisation which agency you should use to engage a translator



Ethnicity of the children: Black British Caribbean, White Black Caribbean, Black British African, Asian Bangladesh, Afghan, White Asian, British Pakistani and Black Other

Trauma informed practice training is available here for practitioners from all settings