

# Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Pre-School Children December 2021



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged 4 years and under at the time of the audit. Five are boys and five are girls. 7 children have a child protection plan, and 3 have a child in need plan

The children have a range of needs including exposure to domestic abuse, parental mental health, neglect, parental substance misuse, parent in prison,

### What we are worried about?

- Lack of use of DASH by partners and no evidence of updates to DASH completed
- Pre-birth plan could have been more robust, and then case closed too early, and resulted in further incidents and re-referral within weeks
- Lack of explicit sharing when a case was closed, and assumptions made about contact with other agencies, and step down happening too soon
- Lack of understanding by parents of the worries of professionals
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### What Good Practice did we see?

- Good communication and multi agency engagement
- Police reporting in a timely way and involved in safety planning
- Timely step up to social care when risk increased
- Evidence that Drive Programme has been offered and accepted
- Creative working to try and increase a parent's understanding
- Pre-birth plan effective
- Use of clutter rating tool
- Good follow up between GP and Social Care following A&E attendance

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



### Themes for Learning – Engagement with Fathers

- Lack of engagement with fathers in the cases
  - Lack of observation of fathers with their children
  - Some engagement with plans and meetings but not conversations and observations with dad not evidenced
- This is mirrored in the National Review – The Myth of Invisible Men – you can read this by clicking in the orange circle on this page
- Always endeavour to include fathers in your work with families**



Consider a Flag for child's record as Child in Need as soon as it is known there is an assessment



Clutter Rating Tool – make use of this to help identify when you should be worried -click here



Ensure that information is shared with other involved professionals to work together well



Be curious about changing family dynamics and the impact on children

### Themes for Learning

#### What we found: Domestic Abuse seen in isolation

Multiple incidents appear to be seen in isolation and not joined together and seen a cumulative risk. DASH only being completed by police, no evidence of other organisations using the DASH – not being used as a tool to help identify risk

#### What needs to happen?

Practitioners from all agencies to use DASH to help identify risk of Domestic Abuse. Practitioners need to be aware of the whole picture – not see events in isolation

#### What we found?

Cross border transfers within families and lack of effective and timely sharing of information between local authorities

#### What needs to Happen?

When a child moves to a new local authority, practitioners should ensure key information is shared with new workers.



Click here for DASH risk assessment

Click here to access the Domestic Abuse Toolkit

Click here to read The Myth of Invisible Men Report

Neglect Toolkit available here