



The ten children and young adults chosen for this audit were aged between 2 and 13 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including domestic abuse, parental mental health, parental criminal activity, neglect, physical abuse, parental substance misuse

### What we are worried about?

- Focus on frequency of DA incidents rather than potential for future harm, leading to close of plan
- No evidence of use of DA or neglect tools
- No evidence of dissent by professionals when CP plan closed, some over optimism
- Absence of police reports can be misconstrued as a positive and similarly closure of CP plans can lead to over optimism
- Impact on children of parental trauma
- Evidence of accepting parent voice in place of child
- Assessment not including enough about attachment
- Short gap between CP plans ending and new plan starting (2 months)
- Day in life of child not recorded, not clear what it is like for the child at home
- CP plan for one child social care focussed should have been more multi-agency
- Escalation not being used when should have been
- No voice of father included
- Adult Social Care not included when there is a concern about self neglect
- Lack of 'Think Family' consideration

Sense that workers feel stuck – what process is needed when there have been multiple interventions and no evidence of lasting change?

### What Good Practice did we see?

- Social Worker keeping focus on children
- Continuity of social worker
- Voice of child being heard, especially at school
- Consideration of father
- Effective multi-agency working evident
- Children identified as victims in their own right by police
- Appropriate flags on records
- BRAG quality improvements identified
- Referrals made to specialist DA services appropriately
- Good information sharing seen in audits
- Good joint working with RSPCA

Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Next Link, Police, YJS, EDT, Preventative Services, Education.



### Themes for Learning: Deflection, minimisation and denial

- When on a CP plan incidents of report DA decline and then increase when CP ends.
- Parent agrees to work with Child in Need (CiN) plan and then changes mind.
- Parent does not perceive any risks for the children
- Parent not taking any responsibility for their part in child being on a CP plan
- Working with minimisation – thinking about professional response to disguised compliance
- Reliance on child to report domestic abuse
- Parental requests for changes to worker as deflection
- Frequent decline of support/services

## Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Repeat Child Protection Plans Sept 2025



Be clear in records about who adults are: eg. using 'dad' when there is more than one father in family

Include the adult's name in records



Multiple CP plans for children in this audit – up to five plans

Most of these audits show evidence of domestic abuse which is ongoing over time



Over optimism by professionals evident when social care is involved

### Themes for Learning Cumulative impact

#### What we found: incidents in isolation

- Cumulative risk of harm not seen
- Each incident seen in isolation
- Combination of multiple factors leading to emotional harm
- Over optimism when full history not explored

#### What needs to Happen?

- Need to ensure full chronology is explored
- Use of multi-agency chronology
- Consideration of emotional harm when there are multiple issues affecting a child



Use of language: 'lack of engagement' and potential for blame

Neglect Tool and resources click here

Domestic Abuse Resources click here

