



The seven children and young adults chosen for this audit were aged between 1 and 17 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including parental substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse, county lines, neglect, Elective Home Education, self harm, alcohol misuse

What we are worried about?

- Child never seen at home which is a usual part of a holistic health assessment
- Church safety plan, and whether safety is maintained at all times – high risk of grooming from a known offender
- Housing asked to 'step away' from the CP process as no longer needed despite having a good relationship with tenant and not included for one family when there is a CP plan
- Gaps in GP information
- Lack of communication between Social Worker for child and social worker for her baby, unclear if effective handovers happened for health visiting as a baby moved out of area
- Clarity of recording has been escalated to a manager
- Use of language – 'in a relationship' adultification and blaming evident for a 14 year old

What Good Practice did we see?

- Evidence of good multi agency working
- All organisations including voluntary sector included in CP conferences. Risk assessments very clear.
- Enhanced MESCH service for one child
- Evidence of child's voice in records
- Evidence of professional challenge
- Evidence of good supervision in place
- Good practice in referring onto The Bridge in a very timely way
- Swift and robust response from the police to a child's disclosure
- Correct use of pronouns for a non-binary young person
- Good communication with cross boundary professionals
- Use of a children and young person's advocate who is able to share child's voice at meetings

The audit of 10th June 2025 reviewed the records of seven children who have a child protection plan under the category of sexual abuse. 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, Next Link, Bromford, Police, YJS, EDT, Preventative Services, Education, The Bridge.



Themes for Learning: Impacts of Sexual Abuse

- Older sibling who has disclosed sexual abuse has told professionals that they feel very responsible for protecting their younger siblings
- Impact of trauma needs to be considered when a child has sporadic attendance at school following a disclosure of sexual abuse
- Transition work from a CP plan as a child approaches 18 – no work identified in this audit for a 16 year old and a 17 year old
- Behaviours can be the voice of the child
- Vicarious Trauma: Supervision for professionals as they work with children who have been sexually abused – this is not routine for all and this audit identified how helpful multi agency group supervision could be

Trauma informed ways of writing about a child
Click here

Click this box for resources to help with language to use

Remain child focussed even when there are parental complexities

Click to contact The Greenhouse who provide therapeutic support

Themes for Learning Use of Language

What we found: Adultification

- Recording includes a 14 year old being described as being 'in a relationship' and 'flirting' with a 23 year old male

What needs to Happen?

- Trauma informed language – ensuring a child is described as a child and a victim.
- Ensure supported decision making for a child and be careful about considering the child 'mature enough'

When there is a need to escalate use the resolution of professional differences policy -click to read

I wanted them all to notice – national panel report

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Sexual Abuse June 2025



The Bridge: click for more information about the SARC

The Bridge Guide for children aged 2-10

The Bridge Guide for children aged 10-17