

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: The Voice of the Child September 2021



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 2 and 16 at the time of the audit. Five are boys and five are girls.

The children have a range of needs including Impact of Domestic Abuse in the family, exploitation risk, missing episodes, alcohol misuse (parental), criminal offences

What we are worried about?

In terms of domestic abuse - Child to adult violence and child to sibling violence is very difficult for families and for professionals to manage.

What can I do differently?

- When a child is involved with the police, always check if there is a CP plan
- Don't look at incidents in isolation, look at the whole picture
- Share accurate information in a timely way
- Holistic assessment of child's needs

What Good Practice did we see?

- Evidence of good information sharing between core agencies
- Minutes of ICPC shared appropriately
- Good evidence of voice of the child including direct quotes in the record
- Observations recorded where a child is too young/non verbal
- Referral made following a disclosure from a sibling
- Evidence that children were taken to a panel for children not in education and given additional funding for mentoring

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



Themes for Learning – When communication is difficult

- Some of the children in the audit were non-verbal
- Good use of observation was seen
- Use of picture exchange cards
- When a child used an alternative system for communicating there was not enough evidence in the audit of consistent use.



Ensure you hear the voice of the child even when the child is non verbal



Impact of Covid-19

There was an impact of not being able to engage as effectively with children during lockdown



When a case is closed to social care universal provision should continue to monitor



Ensure records are flagged when a child has a CP Plan

Themes for Learning

What we found:

Gaps in hearing the voice of the child evident when there are larger families and voice of several children being captured. Sometime the siblings voices were 'louder' and voice of individual children can be lost

What needs to happen?

Ensure each child has the opportunity to talk about their wishes and feelings, and that each child is given the same chance to speak and be heard.

What we found?

Professionals did not always have enough expertise working with a child with ADHD

What needs to Happen?

Linking up more effectively with other professionals to be provided with advice and support by those who have more expertise



[Click here for Voice of the Child Poster](#)

[Click here to access the Domestic Abuse Toolkit](#)

[Click here for a young person's poem](#)

[Click here for the Guidance for safeguarding children with disabilities](#)