Freddie

Freddie is a three year old child who moved to South Gloucestershire, in 2016. He lived with his mother. Following referrals about Domestic Abuse to Children's Social Care beginning in July 2017, Freddie was made subject of a child protection plan in October 2017.



In May 2018 a telephone referral reported that Freddie had been admitted to Hospital having consumed a quantity of alcohol. Freddie also presented with injuries to his head, lips and mouth. In the ambulance Freddie had reported to paramedics that he had been hit by his mum. Freddie's mother stated that Freddie had only consumed a very small amount of alcohol after taking a bottle out of the fridge, however blood testing showed that he had ingested a significant amount of alcohol. There were no children's fingerprints on any bottles in the house. Although Freddie had experienced harm, there is no evidence that there is any lasting impact of this, and Freddie has made a full recovery



What Worked





All agencies who worked with Freddie were invited to take part in this review. There was good sign up to this, but it was disappointing that Freddie's nursery did not engage with the process

Next Steps

- The neglect toolkit has been updated in the Spring of 2018 and a Domestic Abuse toolkit has been launched in October 2018 for use by practitioners from all agencies
- South Gloucestershire is now working towards becoming an 'ACE' aware local authority, with practitioners increasingly recognising the impact of adverse childhood experiences. Trauma Informed practitioners, working with this agenda may interact differently with families going forward as this approach is embedded
- Police to review whether their powers of protection should have been used at either of the call outs to the property
- SGSCB to provide alcohol related tools, checklists for practitioners to use
- Ensure FNP undertake a risk assessment when their involvement is due to end. This will enable any support that may be required, to be in place particularly when there may be additional factors, such as moving house or life events
- Ensure training includes antenatal impact of the trigger trio
- Health Visiting and Early Years to share these findings with practitioners



Learning Brief Freddie



- There is no evidence this incident was predictable or preventable
- When practitioners are working with families regarding managing behaviours/ speech and language ensure the root cause is considered as well.
- Practitioners should take account of the impact of domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health and neglect prior to birth (antenatally)
- Assessments need to be made of parental understanding of child development, attachment and of the impact of domestic abuse by practitioners
- Police delayed a call to the property at night due to sleeping child, when there was a marker on the address and both adults were known to be intoxicated
- All practitioners should be addressing alcohol use, safe storage etc. when this is appropriate
- Once at CP threshold social care can get follow up about parental engagement with services, eg. Mental health, Drug & Alcohol, but this can be challenging with non CP work.





Concerns

and his mum

dealt with

- childhood, prior to arriving in South Gloucestershire was not actively sought
- Focus on Domestic Abuse and not other areas of concern

The Children's Centre and Health visitor worked

well together, sharing information and

Verbal and written handover from B&NES

Family Nurse Partnership to Health Visitor

Referral to Children's Centre following first

Freddie's mum was open with practitioners

Freddie and his mum were seen very regularly

This openness was also assessed through

There were some appropriate and timely

Health visitor visit and assessment.

Professionals shared information

Good attempts to engage with

multi agency responses to incidents

Freddie's Dad by children's social care

Previous concerns from Family Nurse

Partnership were not transferred to new

Moving house/area led to a false sense of

security that life would improve for Freddie

History of Freddie and his mum, and mum's

Health visitor as they were felt to have been

arranging joint visits

observations

- No one explored Freddie's sleeping pattern (12-14 hours) reported by Mum in the light of other information known
- Did we normalise alcohol use, binge drinking?
- There were 5 changes of social worker and a change of social work team





This review was conducted using a practitioner forum and led by Catherine Boyce, Head of Safeguarding at South Gloucestershire Council and Lindsey Mackintosh, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children. Agencies represented were: Avon and Somerset Police, Sirona Care & Health, Children's Social Care, Children's Centre, Knightstone Housing, Next Link, Child Protection Conference Chair.

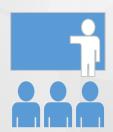
The process also included Amy Weir, the Independent chair of the LSCB who attended as an observer.



You can find the Domestic Abuse Toolkit by clicking this box



You can find the Neglect Toolkit by clicking this box



You can access Domestic Abuse Training by clicking this box



Contact Next Link in South Gloucestershire On 0800 4700 280

Or click this box for the website