



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.



Incident

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 Well?

- The Children's Centre and Health visitor worked well together, sharing information and arranging joint visits
- Verbal and written handover from B&NES Family Nurse Partnership to Health Visitor
- Referral to Children's Centre following first Health visitor visit and assessment.
- Freddie's mum was open with practitioners
- This openness was also assessed through observations
- Freddie and his mum were seen very regularly
- Professionals shared information
- There were some appropriate and timely multi agency responses to incidents
- Good attempts to engage with Freddie's Dad by children's social care



Next Steps



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



Findings

Learning Brief Freddie



Concerns

- ✓ 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

- 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.

- Previous concerns from Family Nurse Partnership were not transferred to new Health visitor as they were felt to have been dealt with
- Moving house/area led to a false sense of security that life would improve for Freddie and his mum
- History of Freddie and his mum, and mum's childhood, prior to arriving in South Gloucestershire was not actively sought
- Focus on Domestic Abuse and not other areas of concern
- 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





The Case Review

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



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Or click this box for the website