



**Dudley Safeguarding
People Partnership**

Local Learning Review Practitioner Briefing

Learning from a case of chronic neglect

WHO SHOULD READ THE BRIEFING?

Any practitioner and manager whose work brings them into contact with children, young people and their families. The messages are just as important for those working in adult services (where service users are parents or carers). The term 'children' includes children and young people up to 18 years of age. For further information on CSPRs visit the Dudley safeguarding website.

HOW WE DID THE REVIEW

Following receipt of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review referral and rapid review meeting, the Partnership agreed that a local learning review should be completed using the findings of the rapid review meeting. Practitioners from various agencies across the Partnership contributed to the review and supported completion of the learning outcomes.

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING

1. Further training for Children's Social Care practitioners to recognise chronic and cumulative neglect for a child, to understand what is happening in their life, how neglect impacts their life chances and how services can provide support.
2. Professionals to collectively look at historic safeguarding concerns and risks, in the form of a chronology, rather than identify them as isolated incidents.
3. Where there are noticeable safeguarding concerns, GP's must complete a MARF into Children's Social Care, rather than rely on other agencies.
4. Professionals attend a multi-agency meeting and review each case where the length of stay in hospital for a child or young person overrides the norm, particularly focussing on whether timescales are due to parenting concerns or to secure a placement for a child when they are unable to return home.
5. Health professionals develop a programme around supporting parents with learning disabilities where they are struggling to understand the complexities of calculating and administering medication to their children.
6. A named child advocate is always linked to a child on CiN, or CP is invited to such meetings.
7. All agencies, particularly Schools and Children Social Care, examine the impact of working differently in difficult and exceptional circumstances, for example COVID-19.
8. Professionals to not repeat MARF submissions into MASH, but to contact the allocated Social Worker or use the Professional Challenge and Resolution process to raise further safeguarding concerns.

9. MASH to have oversight and consider a 'trigger point' or examine three referrals in succession, to highlight the need for further discussions or review a child's case if professionals are continually submitting MARFs.
10. All professionals working with children and young people know and follow the latest DSPP Professional Challenge and Resolution guidance to challenge an outcome or raise further concerns of how a child's case is being managed.
11. DSPP consider further work with front faced professionals allocated to support families, to recognise and act on disguised or non-compliance from parents/carers who appear to be cooperating with agencies.
12. GP's, Schools and School Nurses to work together to discuss a child health needs and records, particularly if there are concerns with parental non-compliance or low or non-attendance at school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All front facing practitioners working with children and young people to revisit Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership (DSPP) Neglect Strategy (Graded Care Profile2 - GCP2) to recognise chronic and cumulative neglect for a child and the impact on their life chances.
2. Children's Social Care complete a deep dive of cases where families with a history of long periods of neglect have moved into Dudley from other local authorities, to potentially divert attention or become hidden from agencies.
3. Health and Children's Social Care professionals to develop a clear pathway and timeliness of intervention for parents with learning needs in order they understand the complexities of calculating and administering medication to their children.
4. Children's Social Care to complete piece of work around parents with learning disabilities to support them with their parenting, especially where child neglect is prevalent.
5. All front facing professionals know and understand how to use the latest DSPP Professional Challenge and Resolution process and attend the Professional Challenge and Resolution training.
6. The learning is shared across the partnership.

MORE INFORMATION

Please see the DSPP Learning Zone for learning materials including Safer 7's and access to our training offer <https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/learning-zone/>

Safeguarding procedures including the DSPP Professional Challenge and Resolution Policy can be found here <https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/children/professionals-working-with-children/safeguarding-children-procedures/>