

Multi-agency effectiveness learning briefing

Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership (DSPP) has a duty to evaluate multi-agency working through case file audits involving professionals from across the children's workforce, and in turn, share the learning regarding the quality of practice and lessons for improvements.

A Multi-Agency Case File Audit (MACFA) took place in September 2020 which focussed on Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in Dudley

This briefing is to inform how changes can be made to professional practice across the agencies workforce to ensure Dudley's response and support to children and families are effective, robust and consistent.

Emerging Themes / Risk Factors identified

- Lack of recognition by the young people that they are a victim of exploitation
- Lack of consistent mentoring and bespoke support
- Numerous changes in Social Worker
- Multiple placements when children and young people are considered troublesome/complex
- Experience of sub-optimal parenting and the negative impact of ACE's on children and young people

Key messages for inter-agency learning

- There is no evidence of joint planning within partner systems despite good individual support work taking place.
- Agencies acting reactively at crisis point rather than proactively to support young people
- Lack of continuity of support for children considered to be at risk / actually being exploited. Highlighting the need for an identified mentor to support the young person through the system.
- More robust transitional arrangements are required for young people with complex needs and vulnerabilities.

Key points for Managers

- There is a need to think about how and where children and young people are placed – placing challenging young people together can have detrimental effect on their outcome.
- Children and young people have been in numerous placements including across the country / semi-independent placements, this potentially widens the network for CCE to occur
- Mentors worked well and improved engagement with young people – a consistent mentor / support worker to support the young person through the whole multi agency system would be beneficial.
- Reliance on placements that are based on resources – is the cost going to be more in the long run if going through criminal system, etc.

Key learning points for Practitioners

- “start over syndrome” at placements could lead to children and young people to disengage with services.
- Consistency in Social Worker / bespoke support / mentor
- Become more reactive – if services are involved with children and young people earlier then more of an impact could be made
- Consider the negative impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on children and young people. An e-learning course on ACEs can be accessed here:
<https://www.acesonlinelearning.com/>

More Information

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

DSPP operates in partnership with other local areas in the West Midlands for its Multi-Agency safeguarding procedures – these cover a wide variety of situations that may be encountered.

Access the procedures at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>

For more information on Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership, email us or visit our website below:



DSPPB@dudley.gov.uk



<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk>