

## 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 on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 which focussed on Domestic Abuse.

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**

- The MACFA process highlighted a lack of intervention and work with perpetrators as being a particular area of need.
- The effective coordination of child protection planning remains an area for development. Key partners are not always aware of the plans for children and the interventions for families are not always focussed or smart.
- Plans for children can sometimes read as lists and it is sometimes unclear how the actions specified in plans for child will address issues of domestic violence.

### **Key messages for inter-agency learning**

- Arrangements for cross border working, communication and exchange of information need to be followed and if needed reviewed so that families remain in sight of professionals when they move between boroughs.
- A local approach to domestic violence including working together across disciplines needs to be well coordinated to encourage an integrated and consistent approach at the earliest opportunity to the victim, the children and perpetrator. Information sharing needs to be timely to ensure that this is effective.

### **Key points for Managers**

- Arrangements for the transfer of MARAC should be followed where families move to other areas.
- The transfer of responsibility for children between local authorities are not always as effective as they can be leading to potential drift and delay for children.
- Where long standing violence had occurred families had experienced high degrees of trauma. It was not clear how assessment and planning for children understood or considered a trauma informed perspective. It was felt that this at times contributed to domestic violence being normalised often leading to victim blaming.

## Key learning points for Practitioners

- Professionals working with families need to understand family history, relationships and networks. This should inform risk assessments, planning, support and timely intervention based on effective and appropriate information-sharing while maintaining principles of confidentiality.
- Effective direct work with children should establish an understanding of the child's perspectives and experiences should directly influence planning and decision making for them.
- The safeguards within children's networks are not always fully understood, considered or engaged in planning for children. Where a clear risk assessment had been undertaken sustainable safeguards and outcomes for children and victims of domestic violence were noted to be improved.

## 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:



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<http://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk>

