

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 22nd March 2022 which focussed on Permanently Excluded Children.

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

- At times there was a lack of consistency with different workers allocated to families. Professionals have struggled at times to engage families and the inconsistent offer could lead to mistrust in services.
- One young person was subject to a Disruption Planning Meeting through the Dudley Exploitation Hub. The purpose of this meeting was not known or understood by the professionals present at the MACFA.
- There is a need to define the protocol for reporting children missing education for all specialist settings and alternative provisions to involve all local authorities, particularly for those with SEND

Key messages for inter-agency learning

- Cross border working, communication and exchange of information needs to be followed so families remain in sight of professionals
- There is a need to ensure that bereavement support can be accessed in a timely fashion
- Children and young people should not be used as interpreters for families where English is not their first language. DSPP have produced a good practice briefing on this that can be accessed on the [Partnership website](#)

Key points for Managers

- When a child is permanently excluded partners should not work in silo, information should be shared with partners and not just within education, with the child's GP for example.
- Some support for young people is discontinued when reaching 16 years old (for example school health do not provide a service post 16 years and in higher education). Transition points can be extremely difficult to navigate with support that was in place. Agencies should prepare young people more robustly.

Key learning points for Practitioners

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic children have not been seen as frequently by professionals, meaning that conditions at home were not observed, had these face to face visits taken place issues could have been responded to sooner.
- There is a need for schools to notify the local authority when a child has been out of school for 10 days.
- Dudley has comprehensive guidance at the below link that lists support agencies and processes to help professionals and children with inclusion:
<https://www.revolutionforschools.dudley.gov.uk/Page/19264>

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:



DSPP@dudley.gov.uk



<http://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk>

