

YS Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Learning Notes

What happened?

YS was 7 months old when they were assaulted by their father. The mother of YS was injured in the same attack. YS required surgery and lengthy treatment however fortunately both YS and mother are making a good recovery.

YS and their family had lived in the Dudley borough for a number of years however had also recently started to use a property in Sandwell belonging to father. Professionals had no knowledge of the property in Sandwell until after the assault.

Father had a previous episode of mental ill health and was known to police. Father has recently been jailed for the attacks.

What did we learn?

Assumptions are often made about family traditions and cultural diversity—this can become a barrier that inadvertently stifles further questions. Professionals need to be mindful of this and challenge assumptions.

Health professionals in particular should consider how to make active enquiries about a child's father and any other significant adults to gain a holistic picture.

Nurturing professional curiosity and constructive challenge are fundamental aspects of working together to keep children safe.

Developing a shared understanding of how people who have experienced trauma might engage with services is key to the success of interventions.

Supervision should be used to reflect, test out hypotheses and assumptions and to consider further questions/steps.

Evidence based tools and methodologies should be used to support actions and learning that are grounded in the lived experience of the child.

Use of genograms is good practice and should include a minimum of 3 generations to be culturally competent.

How can we learn from this case?

How do you test assumptions about your observations and discuss my views when there is respectful uncertainty?

How do you ensure that you reflect instead of react and build a culture of curiosity ?

How can you apply the values and principles of trauma informed practice in your interactions with families?

Do you use evidence based tools to assess risks/protective factors, support with assessments and decision making?

If in doubt, seek advice from your manager, safeguarding lead or contact **SCSP_Business@sandwell.gov.uk / DSPPB@dudley.gov.uk**