



LSCB

Learning from Reviews

May 2015



SCR Child G

- 15 year old girl abducted by a teacher from her school. They had been in a relationship for several months prior to the abduction
- The teacher was subsequently convicted of child abduction and sexual activity with a child

SCR Child G

- In the months leading up to the abduction information came to light within the school on a number of occasions that was suggestive of a relationship between Child G and the teacher.
- These were interpreted as evidence of a “crush” by the pupil on the teacher rather than an abusive relationship



SCR Child G

Key Learning

- Recognising Abuse- the ability of staff to see the teacher as a potential abuser
- Listening to Children- no one spoke to Child G in a meaningful way. A number of children provided information indicating a relationship between Child G and the teacher



SCR Child G

Key Learning

- Working with parents- lack of contact by school with Child G's mother
- Record Keeping- lack of coordinated and centrally located recordings in schools
- E-safety- Lack of understanding by school staff of these issues and access to advice



SCR Child G

Summary of Recommendations

- Ensure that the school can demonstrate;
 - an appropriate understanding, at all levels of seniority, of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them, including appropriate parental involvement
 - arrangements for the support and supervision of staff with specialist child protection responsibilities
 - compliance with arrangements for the recording of safeguarding concerns and actions taken in response to such concerns



SCR Child G

Summary of Recommendations

- Developing initiatives which promote the ability of young people to raise safeguarding concerns, and the capacity of schools and other agencies to hear and respond to such concerns.
- Use the report and the outcomes of this review in training and development opportunities, particularly for school staff with safeguarding responsibilities: “What would stop this happening in our school?”



SCR Child G

Summary of Recommendations

- Development of robust “e-Safety” arrangements in schools.
- Review the arrangements for the LADO service, with reference to the key issues arising for that service from this SCR.



SCR Child H

- 5 year old child who was found by police standing in a bucket with a bin liner taped to the body following a call from a neighbour. Child H had significant bruising to the face, body and genital area.
- At the time Child H and a sibling were being looked after by Mother's partner in his flat. Child H later referred to being hit by this man, and being punished for urinating on the floor



SCR Child H

- Both children were placed in local authority care. The Mother and her partner were later convicted of GBH and Neglect and received custodial sentences.
- Given the significance of the injuries, had the neighbours not called the police to intervene the outcome in this case could have been fatal



SCR Child H

- Prior to arriving in Sussex the family had lived in Bristol and then Grimsby. There had been GP and health visitor involvement in Bristol but no concerns
- Whilst in Grimsby there were concerns over parental supervision of the children and when the older sibling was at school, of on-going issues of neglect and attendance



SCR Child H

- Later the family left Grimsby and both children were considered as missing from school.
- Around this time the police were called to assist the RSPCA in the recovery of an abandoned dog from the family's flat, which described by the landlord as being in an appalling condition with animal and human faeces on the walls.



SCR Child H

Although it was clear children had been living in the flat, no consideration was given by the police to the potential child protection issue for a family living in these circumstances when the dog was recovered



Child H

Key Learning

- Difficulties in working with mobile families who do not inform agencies of their plans
- Impact for professionals working in areas of poverty and deprivation
- Avoiding 'Tunnel Vision'; most intervention was at a low level and relied on information provided exclusively by mother- the need for management challenge and critical review

Child H

Key Learning

- ‘Invisible men’ and risks to children; need for all agencies to collect information on current partners and be considered in assessment process
- The role of the community in protecting children; both grandparent and the manager of the B&B hotel where the family lived in Sussex had seen bruising on the child prior to the incident
- The importance of early intervention processes being owned and understood by all agencies

Child H

Summary of Recommendations

- Children's Services to report to the LSCB on the effectiveness of the THRIVE programme in enabling professionals like teachers and health visitors to provide early help for vulnerable families
- Agencies to report on effectiveness of supervision and management processes
- Review of MARAC processes

Child H

Summary of Recommendations

- Need for research about the impact on professional judgement when working in areas of poverty and deprivation where the boundary between poor parenting and neglect may be blurred
- How to increase public awareness around safeguarding



Child H

Summary of Recommendations

- Develop mechanisms for managers reporting shortfalls of resources to the LSCB
- Safeguarding training for providers of accommodation used by district and borough councils
- Assessment processes to ensure effective consideration of fathers and partners



Emerging Themes from all Reviews

- Promoting Professional Curiosity
- Effectiveness of Strategy Discussions; inter-agency communication and understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Understanding of 'unexplained injury' within investigations
- Role of men within the child protection process
- Elective Home Education



Emerging Themes from all Reviews

- The need for practitioners to have critical challenge and reflective supervision
- Use of chronologies to assist assessment
- Importance of seeing the child in all assessments and ensuring the views, wishes and feelings of the child are represented
- Professional challenge and escalation
- The need to consider verifying information in cases where domestic abuse is totally self reported