

1

### BACKGROUND

This Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR1) was commissioned by Bradford Safeguarding Children's Partnership to consider the professional response to the safeguarding and support needs of school age children whose parent have complex and enduring mental health problems including intrusive thoughts about harming their own children and people in the community.



SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS  
BRADFORD

## THE SIBLINGS PRACTICE REVIEW

2

### BACKGROUND CONTINUED

The family at the heart of this review are white/British, and one of the children is neuro diverse and communicates non-verbally. No further details are provided about the circumstances leading to the review or the family, including relationships, ages, gender, and dates for reasons of anonymity and privacy.

7

### FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/children-and-families-at-risk>

<https://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/>

<https://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/files/guide30.pdf>



3

### REVIEW AND THE FINDINGS

There was not always consistent understanding or analysis of the risks and no clear articulation of what those risks were.

There was no plan to ensure that the child who was neurodiverse had a voice or the impact of the parent's mental illness and of the chaos and instability was understood for the siblings.

6

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

Any assessment should include an understanding of the needs of the family and children and an identification of the services required to meet these needs.

Be curious – seek to establish the barriers why children may not want to talk about their worries.

Living with parental mental health needs doesn't automatically mean a parent/carer is unable to safeguard their children from serious harm, furthermore, adequate support can reduce the risk of children experiencing long-term negative effects.

5

### INFORMATION

1 in 4 adults in England will be affected by a mental health difficulty at some point in their lives. People's lives are changeable and affected by many factors, therefore their capacity to parent safely may also be variable. An understanding of the factors which may increase need and risk is an important part of any assessment.

4

### REVIEW AND THE FINDINGS CONTINUED

Focus was on the support for the parent rather than the children. An absence of the 'whole family' approach, including considering extended wider family issues.

Missed opportunities in signposting to support agencies for the children.

Poor understanding of roles and responsibilities within and across organisations.