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BACKGROUND

Emily was the sixth child in her family and lived with her mother and several siblings and half-siblings. Her parents were in an on off relationship and there were reports of domestic violence in the family. Emily was one month old at the time of the incident and was presented at hospital with head injuries. She was found to have a skull fracture that could be life threatening. A police investigation was started. The family were subject to Child Protection Plan at the time.



Learning from Practice Review – “EMILY”



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WHAT WERE THE CONCERNS?

- There were multiple reports of concerns regarding neglect or domestic abuse being raised about the children and family which were all treated as individual instances rather than being reviewed cumulatively to gain an accurate picture of the family circumstances and the impact of cumulative harm.
- There were concerns about correct agencies being invited to and attending Child in Need and Child Protection Plan meetings.
- Family frequently moved home – Children were not bought to appointments

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WHAT TO DO

- Ensure all reports focus on the progress of the plan and are child focused.
- Focus on the need to improve the child’s daily lived experience.
- Ensure the right professionals are involved with the plan.
- Be confident to challenge the family about progress being made and how sustainable any changes are.
- Be confident to professionally challenge other agencies about their delivery against the plan.

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WHAT WERE THE CONCERNS (contin)

- Issues were identified with relevant agencies being invited but not attending the meetings when invited.
- The quality of the reports was variable, and often just gave information rather than analysis and identification of needs
- Diagnosis of ADHD for a sibling was being pursued rather than considering the implication of parenting & impact on individual children in family.
- Plans were ineffective in addressing concerns and the case was allowed to drift.
- There was a lack of evidence of the focus on the child/ child’s voice/lived experience in the reports.

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QUESTIONS

- What is the day to day life of the child like?
- What is the impact on the child(ren) of repeated incidents?
- Are plans focused on the needs of the child, early help and prevention or are they overly concerned about the adults in the family?
- What is the plan and what difference is it making?
- Are the right people involved with the plan, if not who else need to be involved?
- Are the reports focused on progress against the plan or are they just information updates?
- Are there barriers to learning from previous reviews that displayed similar concerns?

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RESOURCES

West Yorkshire Consortium Procedures on Child Protection Conferences

[Child Protection Conferences](#)

[Responsibilities of professionals](#)

[Review Conferences](#)

[7 MB – Injuries in non-mobile children](#)

[7 MB - Neglect](#)

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INFORMATION

- Thorough and complete assessment of all the circumstances is vital in all CIN & CPP processes.
- Both CIN and CPP processes should ensure the right professionals are involved.
- Plans should be realistic and should focus on the individual child.
- Plans should last long enough to ensure that changes made are sustainable but not be allowed to drift.
- Reviews should be focused on progress of the plan and not be merely information sharing.