



Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board

Response to the Recommendations from the

Serious Case Review of Child K

The case was considered by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) at its serious case review subgroup on 19 April 2017 under Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006. The subgroup found that this case met the criteria for a serious case review and agreed the commissioning arrangements in order to meet the requirements of such reviews as laid out in HM Government 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', 2015 (the statutory guidance at the time).

Working Together 2015 allowed LSCBs to use any learning model consistent with the principles in the guidance, including systems based methodology. Phil Heasman, an independent safeguarding specialist, was commissioned as the lead reviewer to complete the work using a systems-based methodology to ensure full participation by the front line practitioners who had been involved with the family.

To support the process there was a reference group of senior staff from involved agencies which the reviewer used as a sounding board, and where necessary to provide necessary context on organisational policies and practice. The SCR subgroup quality assured the final draft before presentation to the Board

This document provides the response from the Board, and individual partner agencies on any recommendations made to them.

The report provides HSCB with the following recommendations:

1) To invite all partner agencies to promote awareness of responsibilities and expectations for the management of arrangements for sharing information and records set out in the 4LSCB area 'Protocol for Protecting Children who Move Across Local Authority Borders';

HSCB will, with its partners, review the above Protocol and consider any areas that could be further adapted for a multi-agency audience. Following this the HSCB will request all Board Agencies to promote the principles and application of the protocol in their policy and practice.

2) To ask the Early Help Board to review information and guidance to support and promote 'partnership' practice, arrangements and management at the HSCB Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust Thresholds Chart 'level 2' level of need, concern and response;

The multi-agency Early Help Board has established a Task and Finish Group to augment the process pathway for Level 2 Early Help cases. The outcomes of this work will be reported to the main Early Help Board for further consideration and implementation where appropriate.

3) To promote awareness within partner agencies of the need for all practitioners to:

- ascertain, understand and take into account the ‘voice’, experience and participation of all children, especially including those with additional communication and learning needs;
- consider all the children and young people in a family and take a ‘whole family’ perspective when primarily working with or providing services for specific family members;
- share historic information about a child, young person or family with relevant practitioners and services and include this in all assessments;
- identify and liaise with other practitioners and services who have/or had contact, or work/or have worked with a child, young person or family when undertaking assessments or providing services;
- act confidently within the current safeguarding arrangements and procedures, including in relation to making a referral, if it is considered that a child or young person is unable to have access to necessary services or may be at risk of harm through actions of parents or carers.

HSCB has agreed a board priority on ‘a whole family approach’ within its programme of work this year. This will include working more closely with the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board to promote the principles of a whole family perspective across both the childrens and adults workforce.

The need to share historic information about a child and family is already included in the Protocol for Protecting Children who Move Across Local Authority Borders but will be re-emphasised when this protocol is re-promoted.

The learning points from this SCR will be used to inform the current suite of HSCB training including newly commissioned courses on Working Together to Safeguard Children. A case study will be written to support practitioners working with children with additional communication and learning needs and included in the next cohort of Learning Lessons Workshops

4) review the guidance and information about ‘safe-sleeping’ arrangements (including known risk factors, for example alcohol consumption) provided to all prospective and new parents (including fathers or partners) and to the practitioners who may work with them; and consider promoting public awareness through a media campaign.

HSCB will include information on safe sleeping in its current work relating to Abusive Head Trauma and Safe Handling of infant babies. This is a comprehensive programme of education and awareness raising aimed at both parents and professionals and will be supported by material in training, elearning and online apps. This programme is currently being developed and is due to be launched later this year.