



Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Response to the Recommendations from the

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Emma

This case was considered by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) at its Learning and Inquiry (LIG) subgroup in June 2020 under Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Regulations 2006. The subgroup found that this case met the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) and agreed the commissioning arrangements to meet the requirements of such reviews as laid out in HM Government 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', 2018 (the statutory guidance at the time).

Working Together 2018 allowed LSCPs to use any learning model consistent with the principles in the guidance, including systems-based methodology. Senior professionals from within Hampshire agencies with no involvement in the case were identified to lead the review using a systems-based methodology, and an independent safeguarding specialist was commissioned to provide scrutiny on the process and the report.

To support the process there was a reference group of senior staff from involved agencies which the reviewers used as a sounding board and, where required, to provide necessary context on organisational policies and practice. The LIG subgroup quality assured the final draft before presentation to the Board. This document provides the response from the Partnership Board, and individual partner agencies on the areas of learning highlighted to them (as outlined below).

Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to develop guidance and an associated training package for the HSCP Escalation Policy and process and ensure it is widely promulgated across all agencies.

The HSCP Team will develop an eLearning course on the existing escalation policy to support practitioners to embed this policy within their practice across all sectors of the children's workforce. Once completed, this will be shared with agencies to disseminate amongst their staff via existing communication channels.

Recommendation 2:

The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, via their current extensive training programme, to proactively encourage practitioners to operate a reflective mind-set with their case work and via supervision, being cognisant of professional over optimism and ensuring continuing practice of professional curiosity.

The emphasis on and commitment to encouraging professional curiosity and challenge is already a key feature of the HSCP virtual offer. This is further supported by providing professional trainers that are involved in the delivery of the HSCP Virtual Training Offer with a report that contains information on the learning identified from Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews, to ensure the above recommendation is a strong thread throughout every course.

Recommendation 3:

a) The respective partners of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to remind practitioners of their role in contributing towards assessments of parenting, that no one agency will have all the information and that by contributing, all partners will have a better understanding of the assessed needs.

The HSCP Team will develop a short briefing on the importance of multi-agency input into parent assessments. This will be shared with partner agencies in for circulation within their organisations.

- b) The Hampshire Safeguarding Partnership exploitation sub-group to scope what pathways of support are available for parents of children at risk of harm due to exploitation and consider whether engagement with parents and carers is sufficiently reflected in the HIPs Exploitation Strategy and its work streams.**

HSCP has recently launched a Safeguarding Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit for professionals, to support them in working with this group of young people. In January 2022 work will commence on an adapted version for Adolescents and Parents and Carers. Information and support available to children at risk of harm due to exploitation will be contained within this.

Recommendation 4:

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership ask the respective partner agencies to review their recording standards and ensure that expectations regarding the quality of recording, including how the ‘child’s voice’ is recorded, is made clear to practitioners. Each agency should ensure that it is meaningful, understood and embedded within training and practice.

As part of its virtual training, the HSCP Team have developed an eLearning course on record keeping. HSCP eLearning courses, including the ‘Recording Keeping’ course, will be reviewed, and promoted on a rolling schedule, prioritised with reference to learning needs identified by LCSPRs. As part of understanding the importance of recording the child’s voice, agencies will be reminded of the need to see children alone.

Recommendation 5:

- a) Standard operating procedures – for example the procedure for non-attendance in an education setting – should acknowledge and respond to contextual safeguarding, recognising that variation in procedure may be needed to address increased levels of vulnerability for some children.**

The HSCP Education Sub-Group will lead in communicating this expectation to all education settings.

- Further advice will be issued on the importance of contextual safeguarding, with links to relevant documents such as the Ofsted Framework for schools and KCSiE statutory guidance.
- Education settings will be reminded that their attendance policies/procedures should reflect variation in response to existing risk and vulnerability, and the impact of non-attendance in respect of increased risk
- Training for designated safeguarding leads will include a case study and associated ‘lessons learnt’ which incorporates safeguarding in the context of non-attendance/dis-engagement from education.

Schools, colleges, and other education settings will be reminded of the need to consider the circumstances of a child and their family, how those circumstances may increase their vulnerability and therefore, how decision-making needs to take account of that vulnerability. There will be reinforcement of the need for flexibility and responsiveness in procedures, to take account of the need to protect and safeguard. Reminders and reinforcement will be through written communications and training for designated safeguarding leads, to be disseminated widely to all staff in education settings.

- b) Education settings should ensure that child protection records are transferred in a timely fashion at points of transition, in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) statutory guidance.**

The HSCP Education Sub-Group will lead in reinforcing the expectations of KCSiE in respect of record transfer by:

- Re-issuing the record transfer flowchart to all education settings

- Issuing an updated model Child Protection policy to reflect KCSiE September 2021, including a section on record transfer
- Request that all education settings reflect and gather evidence on their record transfer arrangements, as part of the Section 157/175 of the Education Act 2002 and action plan for improvement as appropriate.

Education settings will be reminded of the requirement to share child protection records within the local recommendation of two weeks maximum when a child or young person transfers from one setting to another. This will be done through written communication to all settings, including a flow chart which outlines the expectation for sharing records across settings, and through annual training for designated safeguarding leads, as a minimum.

Recommendation 6:

Partner agencies of the Hampshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership should be reminded of the existing guidance which explains when it is appropriate to convene a professionals meeting. This should reflect a commitment to ensuring a co-ordinated approach to children that are not in receipt of statutory support.

The [professional meeting guidance](#) is available on the HSCP website and has recently featured in the HSCP newsletter (July 2021 edition). Work on promoting this guidance will be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation 7:

Hampshire Constabulary to review its process when providing victims of rape and serious sexual assault with an investigative outcome and put in place a mechanism to ensure that, wherever possible, this is done so in conjunction with a supporting person or professional present.

Since January 2021 Hampshire Constabulary have been building on their relationships with partner agencies supplying an ISVA service (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor). Hampshire Constabulary meet with them on a regular basis to discuss serious sexual offence cases and co-ordinate how they can provide specialist support when police deliver investigative outcomes to victims of crime.

Hampshire Constabulary welcomes the findings of the review and recognises that they can still make improvements in this area. Hampshire Constabulary are also now adapting the national Project Bluestone documentation – a programme that sees police professionals work alongside prominent academics to transform the police response to rape and sexual offences - to accompany investigative decisions of no further action. Hampshire Constabulary are working to implement this before the end of 2021.

Recommendation 8:

Partners should emphasise that it is incumbent upon practitioners in all agencies to question the language that is used to describe a child, their presentation and context in assessments, reports, plans and general recording.

In December 2021 HSCP launched their [Adolescent Strategy](#) and [Toolkit](#), which are now available on the HSCP website. To support the delivery of this strategy, HSCP has scheduled ‘Safeguarding Adolescents’ training within their 2022/23 training offer. This training will include the use of appropriate language in assessments, reports, plans and other recording.

Recommendation 9:

Partner agencies of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure practitioners know how to respond when unreported domestic abuse is raised by a child service user or by a parent of a child

service user. Practitioners should be encouraged to proactively ask about the presence of domestic abuse in a safe and supportive way. Agencies should encourage a multi-agency approach to the management of risk.

HSCP has developed a suite of domestic abuse themed training opportunities, which commenced in September 2020. There are currently 15 different courses, each held 2 - 3 times per year and to this date over 800 professionals have attended.

Recommendation 10:

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to conduct a multi-agency audit of a cohort of adolescents known to children's social care, police, and health due to risk of harm following neglect. This audit should enable the HSCP to identify any continued learning for professionals and identify positive practice.

The multi-agency Adolescent Neglect Audit has been undertaken and findings have been incorporated into the Adolescent Strategy, which was launched in December 2021. This Strategy is supported with an online toolkit providing information on safeguarding themes relevant to adolescents. As part of the toolkit, case studies have been developed to support professionals in understanding the impact of specific safeguarding issues on adolescents.