

## Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership 7 Minute Briefing – Child H

### Background

Child H aged 16 years died in a fatal car accident. The car Child H was traveling in had been identified as suspicious by the Police in the early hours of the morning. Child H was in a car with one adult male (in their mid 30's) and two young people under the age of 18.

The subsequent police investigation established that all 4 occupants had been drinking alcohol and had attempted to book into a hotel earlier in the evening. Agency records suggested that Child H had been exposed to risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The indicators being apparent from the circumstances within which their death occurred, and a combination of factors associated with a missing from home episode, and their absence from formal education.

### What was the Learning?

- In order to address CSE we need to ensure it remains a priority and explore innovative practice developments. Together we need to gather data, develop key performance indicators, and maintain strong mechanisms of quality assurance.
- Learning from Serious Cases Reviews in relation to CSE tells us that organisations working with children at risk need to invest adequate time and resources. It is also apparent that practitioners need to be persistent, tenacious and resilient in this work.
- Practitioners and Managers need to be reflective, confident and apply robust critical analysis to ensure good decision making for children and young people at risk of exploitation. Decision making needs to be based on reliable information and practitioners need to ensure they avoid victim blaming.
- The use of a risk assessment tool in relation to CSE should be in the context of a wider assessment of family functioning.
- Every interaction in assessment of CSE should be used as an opportunity to rigorously follow through the strategic priorities of the partnership.

### Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes the recognition of unique strengths and values of young people and centres around doing what is best for them. The Deal allows practitioners to work differently, promotes effective interventions and outcomes for children and young people. The Deal promotes integrated working with partners, promoting interventions which wrap around the needs of the child.

### What can we consider?

- How does your service capture the lived experiences of children you work with?
- Within your assessments, how can you demonstrate hearing and listening to the child's voice?
- What are you able to do to develop critical analysis and exploration skills, to maintain professional curiosity within your role?
- Do you feel confident in challenging decisions made regarding children and young people you are working with? what steps can you take to ensure this is effective?
- Are you aware of Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership escalation policy?
- How do you ensure that you keep an open mind in practice?

More information can be found on our [website](#)

Contact us at [wscb@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:wscb@wigan.gov.uk)

- How do you ensure behavioural biases are not impacted on your assessment?
- Are young people provided with a safe space to voice their concerns and access support in your setting?

#### **Want to learn more?**

Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures – [Sexual Exploitation](#)

Information about Project Phoenix [Its not okay](#)

Information about [The Deal for Children and Young People](#)

Information about [professional curiosity and challenge](#)

Information about [dealing with disclosures](#)

Information about [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

More information can be found on our [website](#)

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