

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership 7 Minute Briefing- Child K

Background

Child K was known to services and was subject to child protection in relation to neglect. Child K's mother had experienced adverse child experience's and had a history of poor mental health. There was an identified risk of homelessness and domestic abuse in the home. Child K's mother had demonstrated good engagement with services, though engagement began to deteriorate. Child K sadly passed away from natural causes at 5 months old.

What was the Learning?

- Practitioners need access to a range of evidence-based tools to support robust assessments. Training and monitoring of the use of these tools should be consistent to promote positive outcomes and ensure confidence.
- When new information is shared this should be acted upon as soon as possible and within timescales. Families should be supported and given as much time as possible in order to make positive changes and improve outcomes.
- Professionals should exercise professional curiosity in order to identify the right level of intervention in line with the thresholds document.
- Assessments were not robust and there was an over reliance on information that was self-reported. Practitioners sometimes came to conclusions based on telephone calls rather than face to face contact and without access to the full range of information.
- Practitioners should have the confidence to "think the unthinkable" and maintain respectful uncertainty when completing assessments.
- When Practitioners recognise or are aware of parental mental health concerns they should consider the impact of this on the parents ability to parent.
- If a member of public raises concerns, these concerns should be investigated with rigor.
- Practitioners should be aware of other agencies supporting families and their role. Multi-agency meetings and the details of the information sharing policy and procedure should be understood and followed.

Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes partnership working, linking in with those services with the most frequent contact with children and families. The approach promotes the early identification of issues, providing timely interventions and integrated care. Our service offer is tailored to the needs of each family. The borough continues to develop service delivery which drives efficient and effective outcomes.

What can we consider?

- Do you have the skills to facilitate robust assessments and have different conversations to identify what children / young people and their families need and what's important to them?
- Are you aware of the role of other agencies supporting families?
- Are you flexible in the way you provide services to meet the individual needs of children and young families?
- Are you professionally curious? Do you have any gaps in the information you hold?

- Do you regularly review assessments to ensure the service being delivered meets the child's needs?
- How do you ensure that you keep an open mind in practice?
- How do you critically analyse the information available to you and maintain professional curiosity within your role?

Want to learn more?

Greater Manchester Procedures - [Neglect](#)

Greater Manchester Procedures - [Domestic Abuse](#)

Information about: [Wigan Safeguarding Children Neglect Strategy](#)

Information about: [Wigan Safeguarding Children Thresholds of Need](#)

Information about [professional curiosity and challenge, having difficult conversation and disguised compliance](#)

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

Information about [The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children](#)

Information about [Indicators of Neglect](#)