

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

Background

Child M and their family had a history of Children's Social Care (CSC) involvement and were well known to services. Child M had several physical health problems from birth putting them at high risk of SIDS, as a result Child M was known to Neonatal and Midwifery Services. Child M's mother had experienced Adverse Childhood Experience's and had a history of poor mental health and alcohol use. Child M's father had a criminal history, poor mental health and was known to services in relation to substance misuse. The parents had previously suffered bereavement of their children. Child M's mother engaged well with services and her parenting was assessed as "good enough". Less was known about Child M's father's role in parenting his children. Child M sadly passed away due to natural causes, but safe sleep was a concern.

What was the Learning?

- Transition and Think Family approach – Professionals should consider parental childhood history and the impact this may have on presenting behaviours and positive outcomes.
- Clarity of recording - A lack of verbatim documentation was evident; this may lead to incorrect interpretations impacting on outcomes and planning.
- Present individuals – When assessing parental capacity, it is important for professionals to consider all adults who have a role in parenting the children and not just the mother.
- Support offer around critical incidents – When responding to critical incidents professionals should be equipped with the training and resources to prevent further and unnecessary trauma to families.
- Professional curiosity and respectful uncertainty - practitioners should have the skills and confidence to "think the unthinkable" and ask questions, this may include explaining why they ask difficult questions.
- The impact of parental mental health - practitioners need to consider the impact of parental mental health on an adult to parent and meet the needs of the child.
- All practitioners should be up to date and giving the correct information in relation to safer sleep. This must include safer sleep advice when sleeping away from the child's usual home.
- Practitioners should be aware of other agencies supporting families and their role. Multi-agency meetings and information sharing policy / 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?

- Are you confident in having difficult conversations with parents and challenging behaviours ?

- 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 professionally curious? Do you have any gaps in the information you hold?
- How do you critically analyse the information available to you and maintain professional curiosity within your role?
- Are you aware of the bereavement services in the borough and do you know how to access them?

Want to learn more?

Greater Manchester Procedures: [Neglect](#)

Greater Manchester Procedures: [Safer Sleep](#)

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

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

Information about [Indicators of Neglect](#)