

## Wigan Safeguarding Partnership 7 Minute Briefing – Child V

### Background

Child V was born in Wigan in January 2018 and at 16 ½ weeks sustained life changing injuries whilst in the care of a family member. The family had been known to CSC and Start Well Services from 2014 to 2018. The family member is understood to have a learning disability and was a frequent visitor to the family home from 2016 and was very involved with the children. The services involved with supporting the family and the family member knew very little about this.

### What was the Learning?

- Professionals working with families and vulnerable adults need to ensure that they are routinely asking as part of their assessments who is within the family support network.
- Practitioners should exercise professional curiosity when exploring new partners and their role within the family.
- Did Not Attend - Agencies / Services must robustly follow policies to manage missed appointments. Practitioners need to consider when children do not attend – Was Not Brought.
- Agencies / Services need to ensure that the transition handover of when families move area is done in a timely manner.
- Assessments of vulnerable adults should establish, whether they have caring responsibilities for children, or other vulnerable adults and, if they do, practitioners should consider whether a person's vulnerability might impact on their capacity.
- Packages of care / Support Plans for vulnerable adults need to be comprehensively reviewed every year. Reviews should include whether there are any caring responsibilities for others.
- Midwifery Services need to ensure postnatal mental health checklists and social summaries are consistently completed.

### Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes getting to the heart of a problem and preventing children and young people from having to repeat their story, so that we can get interventions right the first time. We should be asking the right questions, to allow us to be critical and innovative in our work with children and families. The deal encourages progression in order to build resilience and better outcomes faster.

### What can we consider?

- How are you encouraged / supported to be inquisitive within assessments about other important adults who play a significant role in a child's life?
- What action is taken by your service when you are informed that health appointments have been missed? Are you aware of the guidance to follow?
- Are you aware of the procedure to follow in terms of transferring care and records when families move home?
- How can teams work together better to facilitate the transition handover when families move area?
- How do you ensure you are professionally curious about caring responsibilities when completing assessments of vulnerable adults?

- Do you understand the principles of the Mental Capacity act, and when a Mental Capacity Act should be undertaken?

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

Wigan Safeguarding Partnership: <https://www.wiganlscb.com/home.aspx>

Greater Manchester Procedures: <https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com>

Professional Curiosity & Challenge:

<https://www.wiganlscb.com/Docs/PDF/Professional/Professional-Curiosity-and-Challenge.pdf>

Mental Capacity Act link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/348440/OPG603-Health-care-workers-MCA-decisions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348440/OPG603-Health-care-workers-MCA-decisions.pdf)

Wigan Safeguarding Board: <http://www.wiganlscb.com/home.aspx>