

## Wigan Safeguarding Partnership 7 Minute Briefing- A Child, A Positive Case Recording Example

### Background

Children's Social Care Case Recording was highlighted as good practice in the face of significant challenges and barriers to positive outcomes for A Child. A Child was known to have multiple complex needs and had previous difficult working relationships with services. A good professional rapport was built with A Child and case recording reflected positively upon their lived experiences, wishes and feelings. The allocated social worker implemented consistent expected practice and showed understanding and application of policy. This prevented known barriers to positive outcomes such as:

- Delays in intervention
- Silo working
- Missed opportunities to refer
- Lack of analysis

### What was the Learning?

- Systems evidence a good understanding of A Child's lived experiences; these were considered by the SW in relation to A Child's presenting behaviours and promoted the continued efforts to engage and understand her needs.
- Despite the type and enduring nature of the risks posed, the timely, accurate and well analysed recording by the SW could be preventing 'start again' The SW understood A Child well enough to make informed decisions on the effectiveness of repeated interventions to reduce risk.
- This accuracy in recording promotes plan progression, positive outcomes for the child, advocated the child's views and reduced the likelihood of negative professional bias.
- Timeliness and professional challenge in statutory meetings- the case shows evidence of pragmatic and detailed planning for statutory meetings to ensure that staff with the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding of a case are present and to facilitate an effective meeting.
- The work of the SW demonstrates a deal-based approach- it was notable that the SW took time to ensure that the personalisation of the approach and a relationship-based role underpinned their statutory duties, and achieved a positive experience for the child.

### 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 do you capture the lived experiences of children you work with outside of their presenting issues-how can you demonstrate hearing the child's voice?

- Are you aware of the impact of language on engagement and the impact it can have on case recordings and professional perception of a child -how can you ensure the use of positive language?
- How do you manage your workload to ensure recording is complete and timely for each case and would inform case progression, what barriers might you face and how could these be addressed?
- Do you feel confident in challenging decisions made regarding individuals you are working with, what steps can you take to ensure this is effective?
- How do you ensure that you keep an open mind in practice, what are you able to do to develop critical analysis and exploration skills to maintain professional curiosity within your role?

#### What can you do right now?

- Speak openly and honestly with young people about your concerns.
- Stay up to date with relevant policies and procedures for your practice
- Practice active listening
- Be aware of the impact that professional bias can have on your working relationships

#### Want to learn more?

[Working together to safeguard children](#)  
[professional curiosity and challenge](#)  
[The Deal for Children and Young People](#)