

## Wigan Safeguarding Partnership 7 Minute Briefing- Child Y

### Background

Child Y was known beyond universal services due to a physical health condition. Child Y's father had a history of substance misuse, professionals were not fully aware of the extent. Child Y's father was known to services due to safeguarding concerns raised in relation to his first child with whom he had no contact. Elements of disguised compliance and indicators for neglect were evidenced in health records. Missed appointments, lack of weight gain and requests to change professionals occurred on multiple occasions. Poor mental health and domestic abuse worsened for parents and a referral to Children's Social Care was NFA'd due to a domestic abuse incident being denied. Child Y passed away following a critical incident at home.

### What was the Learning?

- Lived experience of the child- practitioners should be able to capture the lived experience of a child even when the child is not verbally able to express it.
- Information sharing and disconnect- information sharing processes should be robust within and between agencies to prevent "start again" processes.
- Professional curiosity and application of thresholds-practitioners should be confident in the application.
- Recognising disguised compliance- practitioners should have the confidence to "think the unthinkable" and maintain respectful uncertainty.
- Supervision and oversight- Effective supervision offers a safety net to address gaps.
- The impact of parental mental health- practitioners should be equipped with the ability to recognise and respond to the impact of parental mental health on child protection.
- Reliance on self-reporting- not having sight of systems or relying on telephone calls to assess, allows gaps in the full picture.
- It takes a great deal for a member of the public to raise concerns- such concerns should be investigated with rigor

### 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 able to have conversations which enhance assessments?
- Do you know about families outside of their immediate needs? Is this based on your own conversations?
- Are you aware of the barriers, systems may cause to being professionally curious, do you to ask more questions to fill in potential gaps?
- Do you regularly re-visit on going assessments to amend and adapt based on new knowledge?

- 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 families about your concerns, demonstrate respectful uncertainty and explain your reasoning.
- Practice active listening
- Stay up to date with relevant policies and procedures for your practice
- Be aware of the impact that professional bias, and desensitisation can have on your working relationships and outcomes.
- Actively seek to understand the role of other services working with families and how you can support each other professionally.

#### Want to learn more?

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](#)