

7-minute Briefing

01 Background

Joe aged six sustained a head injury and a fractured foot. Joe was known to Children's Social Care (CSC). Prior to the incident, Joe was twice the subject of Child Protection Plans due to Neglect and the Risk of Sexual and Emotional Abuse.

It was known that Joe's mother had been a Looked After Child (LAC) from when she was six years old. She became a Looked After Child due to the abuse she received from her own mother.

02 Safeguarding Concerns

Mum had post-natal depression and had difficulties in managing a crying baby. She managed Joe by using physical abuse. Her own low self-esteem made her believe she was a bad mother.

She attended several parenting classes but found it difficult to empathise and show any warmth in her parenting of Joe. She believed her baby cried on purpose and overtly admitted hitting her baby but with a lack of remorse, minimising and denying her own actions.

07 Progress

CSC focused on a range of developments and actions in relation to practice. The CSC improvement plan encompassed the development of practice standards for assessments, which were developed as part of the Growing Quality in CSC framework. The standards, which were introduced to all workers, set out clear expectations of good quality assessments across all service areas and include:

- Robust management oversight of all work allocated, including a plan of actions
- All assessments are to be completed using minimum standards. All assessments have management oversight.

06 Progress

- A survey on blockages in multi-agency working was carried out in 2017 and 2018 and findings were reported to the LLR SCP Policy and Procedures Group (previously the LLR LSCB Procedures Group) and into the Heads of Service for front door services in Leicester City and Leicestershire County.

05 Progress

- A 'Voice of the Child' film called ['Was not Heard'](#) was produced across LLR to promote the views of children and young people who have a right under article 12 to have their voice heard and listened to.
- Large-scale learning events have taken place relating to children with disabilities, including specific focused work on hearing the voice of children, in the context of children with disabilities.

03 Key Learning Themes

- The parenting capacity of adults who were previously Looked After Children (LAC)
- Practitioners failed to recognise the voice of the child (including the verbal and non-verbal voice of the child) and understand the child's lived experiences and long-term impact of abuse
- Lack of appropriate response to physical abuse
- The need for good quality supervision and exploration of professional challenge

04 Progress

- Work took place to ensure that GP records are now checked during the antenatal period to identify if the mother or father was previously a Looked After Child. This information will be identified by the 'Leaving Care Health Summary', a comprehensive summary of the young person's health and social care.
- A copy of the 'Summary' is given to the young person and also stored in the GP and Social Care records. This information will contribute towards the Midwife / Health Visitor assessment of any additional support the parent(s) may require to adequately parent their child.

