



## LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN: Serious Case Review KN15

### SUMMARY:

KN15 was a 13-year-old girl who died whilst missing from home after a family argument. During her early childhood she had witnessed domestic violence involving birth father and mother. Mother and child moved house several times within Nottinghamshire and other Local Authority areas and mother remarried. Step-father self-reported mental health problems but the impact of this on the children of the family was not assessed on a multi-agency basis. Concerns about KN15 were identified at an early stage, soon after birth, and 'Early Help' support was provided when the child lived within a neighbouring Local Authority, but this ended when the family moved back to Nottinghamshire. The child went "missing from home" on several occasions but not all episodes were reported to the authorities. Information was shared between schools when the child moved to a secondary school in Nottinghamshire. School made referrals to MASH, but the child was assessed as being below the threshold for Children's Social Care involvement. The child and family were provided with support from school but did not benefit from the completion of an 'Early Help Assessment Form' and a coordinated approach assisted by a written assessment and plan.

### KEY LEARNING:

1. Early intervention and support for families will be more effective, cohesive, and focused, when delivered with a written assessment and plan.
2. Assessments, following the identification of emerging needs, should explore the wishes and feelings of the child to further understand the cause of a child's behaviour and possible underlying distress. The intervention should avoid only focusing on the behavioral change of the child.
3. Adults who present with mental health problems should be assessed in relation to the risk they may pose to children within the family.
4. The potential consequences for the child should be considered by those involved before sharing concerns about possible emotional abuse with parents/carers.
5. When a child moves school, professionals should be aware of a child's history and alert to any gaps in that history.

### IMPROVING PRACTICE:

Here are some suggestions for improving practice: -

- Share this bulletin in team meetings and during supervision.
- The full Serious Case Review overview report is available in the [Learning from Practice](#) section of the NSCP website.
- Make use of the NSCP [Early Help Assessment Form](#) to identify what indicators of need are present at level 2 or 3 of the [Pathway to Provision](#)
- Read the Interagency Guidance [Good Practice Supporting the Voice of the Child](#)
- The NSCP provides a range of training opportunities which are relevant to this review and can be booked via the [NSCP website](#)
- The online [NSCP inter agency safeguarding procedures](#) provide detailed guidance across the range of safeguarding issues.