



LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN – HN13

SUMMARY:

Child H was 4 months old when she died. The cause of her death remains unknown but it was identified that she had sustained a number of injuries in the past which are thought to be non-accidental. She lived with her mother, mother's partner and her sibling. The family had been known to several organisations as a result of serious domestic abuse between mother and her previous partner, the children's father. There were concerns around mother's mental health and use of alcohol. Father was known to the police but not known to children's social care (CSC).

KEY LEARNING:

The review was conducted using a Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) led by an independent reviewer. The review concluded that the injuries to child H were neither predictable nor preventable and identified a significant amount of good practice.

The learning identified included:

1. The need for effective information sharing when a significant number of agencies are involved with the family and the need for co-ordinated multi-agency working with stated and shared outcomes.
2. The importance of recognising the increased risks to children where domestic abuse is present together with additional risk factors such as parental mental ill health.
3. The importance of remaining focused on the needs of the child when parents have complex and demanding needs of their own and supporting staff to ensure the needs of the child remain paramount.
4. The need for reflective supervision from experienced managers to enable staff to identify and challenge parents who lack the capacity or motivation to change or who use manipulation or disguised compliance;
5. The need to reflect on the case as a whole to establish if the threshold is met for CSC services.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

The learning from this review has been widely disseminated.

In November 2014 the NSCB launched its revised practice guidance relating to domestic abuse and a multi-agency audit relating to domestic abuse has been conducted and reported to the Board in March 2015. NSCB has held a number of training events which focused on dealing with parents who use manipulation or disguised compliance.

MORE INFORMATION:

NSCB/NCSCB Practice Guidance can be found on the following link

http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/guides/p_dom_viol_abuse.html