Learning Briefing – Rapid Review RR25-5

Circumstances

A review was completed following a 14 year old being found deceased at home following a suspected drug overdose.

Concerns had been raised in relation to the adultification of the child, unsuccessful engagement from services, potential exploitation concerns, allegations of sexual abuse, experiences of racism and seeing each family member as individuals with different needs and lived experiences.

Links to Local/National/Themed Guidance

"It's Silent": Race, racism and safeguarding children – Panel Briefing 4

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-programme-annual-report-2024-to-2025/supporting-families-whole-family-working-informing-future-system-reform-annual-report-of-the-supporting-families-programme-2024-to-2025?

Professional curiosity professionalcuriosity.pdf (nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Partnership Learning Points

- Multiagency training should be considered through the learning and workforce development group to raise awareness of the adultification of children.
- Schools and education settings should be supported to strengthen understanding of behaviours that may indicate unmet social, emotional, or developmental needs, promoting a trauma-informed approach rather than a behavioural lens.
- A reminder of local services created by NottAlone and Ask Lion to be shared across the partnership to increase practitioner awareness and accessibility. Consideration should also be given to how support is offered to children and families who may not be able to articulate their needs or their requests for help and support verbally.