

Essex Safeguarding Children Board

CSPR Child F – Briefing

What is a CSPR?

[For further information go to our website](#)

Background

Child F was 8 years old when she was rushed to hospital due to an apparent extreme level of neglect. Child F was unresponsive with an absence of respiration and pulse. She was noted to be in an extremely poor medical state and thought to be severely malnourished, anaemic and unkempt with a significant head lice infestation. She remained in a critical condition for some time.

Child F was one of 5 children who lived with their mother. The family had been known to services for a number of years due to ongoing concerns about neglect. The family had recently moved from another local authority having been evicted due to the state of the home. Both parents were later imprisoned for child neglect.

Child F has since recovered and is in foster care. The other children are either in foster care or living with family members.

Multi-agency Recommendations:

- All agencies to review single and multi-agency neglect policies and practice guidance
- ESCB to seek to understand how all practitioners manage multi-agency **Child in Need review processes** to ensure that concerns highlighted during assessment and during the life of the plan are followed through
- All agencies to review their use of the term '**non-engagement**' (or similar) when closing cases involving children with a view to changing organisations' recording to have specific reasons such as 'no response' or 'unable to make contact'.
- All agencies to review how they gather information on the **wider networks of the families** and how practitioners involve them or encourage their involvement.
- All agencies working with families to review how they understand **needs and capabilities of parents**, and identifying appropriate interventions, while maintaining focus on how these impact on children's wellbeing.

Key themes and learning points

- The response to neglect including the cumulative effect of neglect and the normalisation of neglect
- The impact of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown
- Needs and capabilities of parents, including mental health
- Involvement of the wider family network
- Professional disagreement and escalation
- The important role education settings play in safeguarding children
- Child in Need transfers between local authorities
- Voice of the Child
- Child/ren not brought to appointments
- Potential homelessness & Housing issues

Changes to practice following this review

- The voice of the child was incorporated within a standard in the recent Primary Care Safeguarding audit.
- A Local Hospital have produced a leaflet for young people listing support services available to them
- Health Visiting have developed a Home Environment Assessment Tool to evidence neglect
- Work is underway to support the process of CIN transfers

Links to the ESCB Website

- [CSPRs](#)
- [SET Child Protection Procedures](#)
- [Neglect](#)
- [Voice of the Child](#)

Further Reading and Resources

- [Working Together 2023](#)
- [NSPCC – Learning from Case Reviews – Neglect](#)
- [Rethinking 'Did not attend' – Short video](#)
- [Research in Practice – The Impact of Covid-19 on Child Protection](#)