

Essex Safeguarding Children Board

Child PP – Learning summary

Background

Child PP died at age 15 from a road traffic collision whilst under the influence of alcohol. Child PP and his family had been known to services for several years due to concerns about his behaviour, and his mother's significant mental health issues.

Whilst the CSPR sub-committee did not agree the case met the criteria for a CSPR, a one-day learning event was held with practitioners involved in the case chaired by an Independent Reviewer.

Learning theme 1: Fluctuating service involvement

- Use of the term 'disguised compliance' is often not helpful and does not accurately reflect what is going on for families – ***what may be behind their lack of compliance, why did they not want support?***
- See Part B1 Section 6 of the SET Child Protection procedures – *“Managing work with families where there are obstacles and resistance”*

Learning theme 2: Multiple and repeat referrals

- Practitioners should re-evaluate support available to service users, when previously offered support has been declined – ***why was this?***
- Families such as Child PP's felt overwhelmed and 'judged' by so many services being involved
- Consideration of re-referring families to services if circumstances have changed

Learning theme 4: Multi-agency approach with the whole family, including adults' services

- It is important for practitioners to ***consider the composition of the whole family***, even when concerns only relate to one child – the use of genograms and having open relationships with the family can help develop this

Learning theme 3: The impact of trauma

- Child PP experienced multiple traumas and loss in his life including bereavements in the family, his parents' separation and subsequent estrangement of his father, and the impact of his mother's mental health issues on Child PP's daily life.
- ***How was Child PP's behaviour understood by practitioners, was trauma recognised as a potential factor?***

Further Reading and Resources

- [SET Child Protection Procedures](#)
- [Working Together 2023](#)
- [ESCB Trauma Awareness training](#)
- [SET Think Family Podcast](#)
- [NSPCC – Parents with a mental health problem – Learning from case reviews](#)
- [ESCB Webpage - Professional Curiosity and Disguised Compliance](#)