

Multi-Agency Case Audit Learnings

Domestic Abuse

Safety for child vs rights of victim

Attendees questioned whether the right level of weight was given to creating safety for the child vs the rights of the victim. There were multiple examples when the victims refused consent for support by social care, and they did not intervene. The MACA highlighted the difficulty in holding both victims (adult and child) in mind.

Risk assessments and safety plans

Risk assessments and safety plans are not always shared with and understood across agencies. Therefore, an important reminder to ensure that agencies who are supporting families have the same shared understanding of safety plans as they evolve and adapt to victims needs.

Relationship patterns

There was too much emphasis and optimism on the relationship having ended, even when the history indicated a longstanding pattern of ongoing contact in periods of separation, and multiple reconciliations. More attention to these patterns was needed within the risk assessment and analysis.

Family system insight

Family Members can provide invaluable insight into domestic abuse that is occurring within the family system, even when incidents are denied by victims and perpetrators. Always remember to hold in mind information coming from close family members and how they can increase safety for children/victims.

Further Reading

- [Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board](#)
- [COMPASS](#) – single point of access