

# Essex Safeguarding Children Board

## Child TT Learning summary

### Background

Child TT was 3 years old when he was placed on a Child Protection plan due to neglect. Child TT was removed from the country by his parents whilst the plan was in place.

### Learning Theme: Challenging decisions

The review found that whilst practitioners had strong views about the case, Senior Managers made opposing decisions and practitioners felt unable to question this.

The review suggested that the role of hierarchy within agencies impeded their confidence or ability to challenge those in senior positions.

Practitioners from Health felt their views were not heard and they felt unable to voice their concerns given the statutory duties of Social Care and Police.

### Learning Theme: Systems and Procedures

The review identified that practitioners did not have a good understanding of alert systems in place; namely Border Force and Health alerts, and therefore, there was an overreliance on what these alerts could do.

Border alerts were placed following concerns the family would leave the country, however due to the family using different spellings or combinations of their names, the algorithm did not pick up on these.

It is essential practitioners and managers understand the process, purpose and outcomes of such alerts. It is important to understand the limits of alerts.

### Further Reading and Resources

- [SETDAB - Support for male victims of Domestic Abuse](#)
- [NSPCC Practice points for multi-agency working and information sharing](#)

### Learning Theme: The role of culture

Child TT's parents were from Pakistan and stated they were Muslim. Practitioners tried to communicate with Mother in her native language, but this did not result in meaningful interactions. Practitioners felt that the family's background may have shaped their views and understanding of services which may have contributed to challenges in their engagement

### Learning Theme: Male victims of domestic abuse

This review questioned whether Father was a victim of controlling and coercive behaviours from Mother. There was insufficient evidence to form a view, but had practitioners considered this they could have explored it with Father, or it could have informed their view as to his inability to effect change with Mother.

The review identified learning in relation to practitioners' awareness of the experiences and presentations of male victims of domestic abuse (specifically, controlling and coercive behaviours).

### Evidence of good practice: Maintaining a focus on the child

Throughout Child TT and his parents' contact with services there was strong evidence that practitioners maintained their focus on him and his needs despite Mother's resistance towards services. Practitioners were unable to see Child TT despite their repeated attempts to visit the home. Concerns remained high around his developmental needs and the ability of his parents to provide adequate care.