

Essex Safeguarding Children Board

Learning Summary

Child HH and Child CC

Background

This review was initiated following serious non-accidental injuries to Child HH, aged 6 months, and concerns about the care and safeguarding of both Child HH and Child CC aged 2 years. Child HH's Mother was partner to Child CC's father; both were care leavers living in temporary accommodation.

Effective Practice

- Strong multi-agency collaboration post-injury.
- Use of Family Group Conferences and parenting support services.
- Reflective and thoughtful assessments by practitioners.

Housing Involvement in Safeguarding

- Inconsistent engagement of housing providers in safeguarding processes.
- Those who commission housing providers should ensure that contracts recognise the need for housing providers to have sufficient capacity to participate in children and adult safeguarding processes
- Practitioners felt they were not clear on the differing types of accommodation and the support provided to families within the accommodation.
- Need for clearer protocols on who should be invited to safeguarding meetings, especially from housing.

Risk Assessment and Decision-Making

- The complexity of parental backgrounds was not always fully considered in risk assessments.
- Young parental age and frequent changes in living arrangements added to the complexity.
- To ensure there is a robust contingency plan in place at point of ending a Child in Need plan and to ensure all agencies working with the family are aware of the plan.

Impact of Staff Changes and Virtual Meetings

- Frequent staff changes were mitigated by good handovers.
- Virtual meetings with children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic were a necessity, however all meeting with children and families should be held in person unless there are specific reasons not to.

Information Sharing

- Practitioners felt there were challenges in accessing historical information about parents from other local authorities and health services.
- Practitioners also described difficulties in obtaining information about fathers when the Section 47 threshold had not been met.
- There were barriers due to GDPR and lack of integrated IT systems across health and social care.

Further Reading and Resources

[NSPCC - Housing: Learning from case reviews](#)

[ESCB Working with Father Figures Practice Tool](#)