

Background

Child DA comes from a White British Family, she has two older maternal half-sisters, twins. Father of Child DA is Mr D, father of siblings is Mr F; and mother is Ms C.

Ms C moved between her mother, Auntie and Grandmother as a young person and mostly felt supported and happy with her Grandmother, there were some concerns about her mother's parenting. She has never had her own tenancy. Ms C reported that she has only lived with Mr F and then Mr D. She was in a relationship with Mr H at the time of the incident.

Bexley Children's Social Care (CSC) made a referral to Lewisham CSC in June 2019, there were concerns Mr D had a history of violence. Lewisham initiated a Child & Family Assessment.

What happened?

The Metropolitan Police made a referral to Lewisham MASH regarding Child DA (3months old). She was in hospital in a life-threatening condition following an incident in Lewisham. The family lived in Greenwich. DA's mother presented at A&E with her partner, Mr H and three daughters.

Mr H had alerted Ms C that Child DA appeared unwell. An ambulance was called. DA was found to be in an unresponsive state, breathing irregularly and have bruising on her forehead. Mother reported one of the other children had knocked DA while jumping and playing.

The Hospital made a referral to MASH with concerns about a non-accidental injury. DA presented as unresponsive and the CT scan found a bleed to the brain. DA survived the incident, whilst her prognosis had been very concerning, she has reached her milestones and made a good recovery.

Further Reading

- The full CSPR report can be found here:
<https://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/learning-from-practice/published-reviews/>
- The London Child Protection Procedures, Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries can be found here:
https://www.londoncp.co.uk/chi_fam_bound.html
- <https://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Professional-Curiosity-factsheet.pdf>

Key Findings

1. Understanding of the impact of family history
2. **Lack of professional curiosity about fathers and male partners in the family**
3. There was not a clear outcome or recommended Plan following the Lewisham C&F Assessment
4. **It is important to consider the impact of caring for a baby with reflux and the additional demands this may put on a parent already struggling to care for a young baby**

Actions

1. Guidance and learning activity for using genograms / ecomaps to be provided.
2. **Develop a multi-agency learning activity around working with men and Professional Curiosity.**
3. Guidance on recording adult details in case files.
4. **Provide guidance on the process to transfer cases across boroughs at the assessment stage.**
5. Guidance to be provided regarding supporting parents with babies that have reflux and require medication.
6. **Guidance regarding the requirement to record housing status and action the necessary support.**

Key learning for RBG

- Professional Curiosity
- **Working with, including and being curious about men when working with families. The use of genograms to support this.**
- Receiving cases from other local authorities, how and when to challenge recommendations.
- **Supporting parents when there are concerns of reflux and the baby requires medication.**
- Working with and effectively supporting families that move home regularly, especially between LAs. Being curious about this and identifying this as a risk factor.

Recommendations

1. **Consideration to be given to explore family history by way of a genogram or ecomap at the first visit by a new service and referred to frequently and updated where necessary.**
2. Names and details of significant adults in the child's life should always be accurately recorded; not solely referred to as "father" or "partner".
3. **If a Child & Family Assessment requires transfer to another LA, assessment should include a recommendation, before transferring, with the threshold met. If the receiving LA do not agree, this should be clearly recorded along with the reasons.**
4. Health Professionals to consider an expectation that a discussion takes place with parents about any additional support that is needed when a baby is prescribed medication for reflux.
5. **Agencies to ensure that a family's housing status is clearly understood and recorded on file, any moves between Boroughs are clearly recorded, so that any necessary support is put in place quickly.**