

Learning Lessons to Improve Multi Agency Practice Briefing 2017-2018

HSSCP has a statutory duty to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, as well as to quality assure practice and assess whether multi-agency partners are fulfilling their statutory safeguarding duties. This includes involving practitioners and identifying lessons learned through professional conversations, and conducting Single and Multi-Agency Audit Reviews (MAAR).

This helps us understand the effectiveness of front-line practice in protecting children and young people, how well the lessons of Serious Case Reviews, audits and other reviews of practice have been learnt; and what the impact of locally delivered training has been. Importantly, it allows us to identify good practice and ask questions about whether things could be done differently to improve the safeguarding system.

The following are key messages from lessons learned during 2017 / 2018

Assessments

Assessments need to reflect the impact of actions or inactions on the child with information gathered in such a way that if the case goes to PLO, the information is available and to the standard required.

Early Intervention

If you have concerns about a child, act, assess and build up the 'full picture' at the earliest opportunity.

Initiate purposeful conversation through normal activities with a child, especially when consent has been denied by a parent

Don't delay!

Chronologies

The past is important to improve the future. Historical information can be crucial, check it out, analyse record and share. Was it a significant event?

Professional Conversations

Agencies must promote professional challenge conversations.

Practitioners need to speak up, be confident and accountable in challenging practice and for the decisions they make.

REMEMBER, THINK ACT!

What is the child's lived experience and the impact on them?

Decision Making & Plans

Step up, Step down.

SMART actions come from assessment, analysis and professional accountability.

Following them through and developing a sceptical mind set can protect children.

Work Together

When information is not shared, critical risk factors can remain hidden amongst the barriers, leaving staff and agencies working in isolation.

Referrals

Good professional accountability and decision making leads to ownership of a good referral!

All factual information must be included in referrals and dialogue must take place to aid understanding between those sending and receiving.

Home Conditions

Look beyond what you first see, where you think you can go and who lives here!

Failure to recognise early indicators of neglect and abuse can support its continuation.

Source: SLSCB