

7-Minute Briefing: Highlighting Positive Practice

What Happened?

A 5-month old baby, who was put to sleep on a mattress on the floor and was later found unresponsive, has sadly passed away. At the time of the incident, the baby was subject to a child protection plan. Whilst the outcome of this case was tragically the death of the baby, this briefing has been created to recognise and highlight the excellent safeguarding practice that was evident throughout.

1

Strong Multi-Agency Communication

- There was consistent and proactive information sharing across agencies, including excellent utilisation of email communication and core group systems to maintain shared oversight.
- Evidence of strong coordinated responses when concerns escalated.

2

Timely and Robust Safeguarding Response

- There was appropriate and timely escalation to strategy discussions and child protection processes.
- Statutory meetings were held within timescales
- Strong and immediate safeguarding actions were taken at key risk points for the family.

3

High-Quality Social Work Practice

- Regular and purposeful visits, including unannounced visits.
- Strong management oversight and reflective supervision.
- Strong evidence of professional curiosity and analytical thinking.
- Consistency with social worker who had good knowledge of family history.

7

Positive Engagement with Family and Network

- Excellent relationship-based practice with mother.
- Strong engagement of wider family network in safeguarding and care planning.
- Effective inclusion of all relevant individuals (e.g. father involvement where possible).



6

Proactive Risk Management

- Good use of safety planning, legal frameworks, and monitoring to reduce risk.
- Timely use of strategy meetings and multi-agency decision making.
- Appropriate use of testing (e.g. substance misuse screening) to inform risk.

5

Effective Use of Specialist and Health Services

- Evidence of intensive and consistent health visiting support
- Timely access to substance misuse services.
- Coordinated contribution from health, police, and other partners.

4

Effective Child Protection Planning

- Clear, detailed and regularly updated child protection and safety plans.
- Plans were responsive to changing risk (including category changes when needed)
- Consistent and effective conference chairing supporting good decision-making.

Recommendations for the Partnership

- A multi-agency working group to be established to review and strengthen information sharing at the safeguarding 'front door'.
- Review and strengthen safe sleep messages so advice is consistently shared, recorded, and understood by all caregivers.