

01

Background

Child Y was a 4 year old child when they were removed from their Mother's care and placed with their Father on a Care Order. The Local Authority was the Corporate Parent. Child Y had been described as 'bright and chatty' and had made good developmental progress.

02

Safeguarding Concerns

Safeguarding concerns were reported from pre-birth but Child Y was never subject to a child protection plan or pre-proceedings. That meant that other professionals were not aware of those safeguarding concerns when they began work with the family.

Child Y had a complicated life having experienced neglect, significant instability and loss, exposed to adults taking drugs and to violence.

03

The Incident

While living with their father and his family, Child Y was living with several step siblings. The partner of Child Y's father became pregnant and prior to the birth Child Y and some of the other siblings went to live with her Mother. This was not assessed or approved. Before and after the birth the school reported a number of safeguarding concerns inc. bruises and scratches, foraging for food, falling asleep in class and absences.

A child protection medical found that Child Y had approximately 18 bruises on their body and face. Medical opinion was that 'the majority of bruises were likely to be non-accidental'.

04

The Review

The review looked at;

Whether Child Y's lived experience and their needs were fully assessed, understood and reviewed by professionals?

How effectively agencies worked together with Child Y and their family to assess and review the suitability and safety of the placement, and its changing circumstances, and manage any risk?

The extent to which professional thinking and decision-making was influenced by the fact that Child Y was the subject of a care order and placed with their father?

05

The Findings

There was a good assessment of Child Y's needs. However, there was a lack of multi-agency working or coordinated plan that addressed the vulnerabilities of the placement or Child Y's emotional needs. Partners did not understand the changing circumstances for Child Y and the impact that they were having.

Some professionals considered the 'placement with parent' to be safe because it was an order granted by the court. Child Y did not receive the level of support that should normally be afforded to a Looked after Child.

07

Implementing Change

- Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice.
- Identify and outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in line with the findings and recommendations.

06

Recommendations

- Professionals need to know the restrictions of a police 'safe and well' check and how their service provides a follow up response.
- Professionals should understand the impact that parental substance use can have on children.
- Placement with parents must be better monitored and receive multi-agency support.
- Pre-birth assessment work needs to be improved and involve partner agencies.

Child Y

7 Minute Briefing

Child Y - Action Plan



Name of Organisation

Team Manager

Name of Section & Team

Contact Details

Identify the learning or recommendations that are relevant to your team and summarise your teams' discussion on those points

1.
2.
3.

Child Y - Action Plan



What actions have been agreed to improve practice?

What needs to happen?	Who will do it?	By When?	How will you know when it has been done?	How will you know if it has worked?