



Regular Case File Audit: Summary for Practitioners & Managers

July 2019

Background

The Local Safeguarding Children Board Quality Assurance (QA), subgroup is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the work carried out by the Board partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to make recommendations about ways this can be improved. It does this through an annual programme of case file audits and scrutiny of multi-agency performance data and inspection reports. The subgroup meets six times a year. Auditors include representatives from NHS organisations, Sussex Police and East Sussex County Council Children Services.

In July 2019 the QA Subgroup completed an audit of six child protection cases from across the county where the case had progressed to Section 47 enquiries. This summary provides a briefing on the findings of that audit.

Method

Six cases with multi-agency involvement were selected using Children's Services data. Cases were randomly chosen but so as to reflect a range of circumstances, age groups, and different areas of the county and different outcomes. Each audit also includes at least one case where there is a child with a disability or who has communication difficulties. Each auditor was sent an audit tool based upon the Ofsted framework and populated with the details of each case including family background, relationships, referral date, and assessments.

Auditors used the completed audit tools to share and discuss findings in general but specifically to agree the learning, the strengths, the factors that supported good outcomes and the recommendations.

Strengths in Multi-Agency Practice

In the cases audited, there was evidence of:

- ✓ Quick identification of risk in all six cases
- ✓ Good initial response to the risks the child experienced
- ✓ Children were seen alone and their views were recorded
- ✓ Good analysis and assessment of the risks and a clear outcome focussed plan in all six cases
- ✓ The school was an important place of support to the child
- ✓ The needs of other children in the home were considered
- ✓ Good information sharing across the agencies involved in all six cases, including across local authority boundaries
- ✓ Good core group activity in the relevant cases

Areas that could have been strengthened in individual cases

- In one case the GP and child's school or nursery could have provided some additional rich day to day information about the child experiences to support the multi-agency decision making.
- If changes to a plan that was agreed in a multi-agency forum had been taken back to that same multi-agency forum for agreement then all agencies working with the child would have had a shared and clear understanding about planned activity and risks.
- A child's school will be more effective in the support it provides a child when they are kept up to date with information about the child, their family situation and any multi agency decision making
- Children's Social Care need to be clear with all involved agencies about the status of a discussion about a child and whether it is part of a formal Strategy Discussion.

- Timely information sharing between organisations prior to either a child with safeguarding risks moving school or when an adult that is assessed as posing risks to their children, moves into the area where the children are living.
- Children's Services child protection conference notes about a child should be easily accessible on a child's GP records, or they should be able to access Children's Services Single View.

Learning Identified

- When any professional or agency is concerned that they have not received key information about a child, for example minutes of a multi-agency meeting or a child's Plan, then they should take responsibility for contacting social care to secure any missing information.

Learning for Practice

What are your thoughts on some of the issues raised in this case audit? Please discuss these issues in team meetings or group supervision and send your thoughts in to your safeguarding lead

Points for discussion:

Applying learning

- ✓ What have you/your team learnt from this audit?
- ✓ How might you/your team apply that learning?

- ✓ When should a child's safeguarding records be sent to their next school?
- ✓ Which Health professionals should be invited to contribute to Strategy Discussions?
- ✓ How do you contact the various Health professionals?

Resources

If you think a child is being harmed or may be at risk of harm,
please contact: SPoA (Mon-Friday 8.30am-5pm)

Phone: 01323 464222

Email: 0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk or
0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gcsx.gov.uk



ESSCP Multi-Agency Training:

The ESSCP offers a range of training for professionals. Details of future courses can be found on the East Sussex Learning Portal:
www.eastsussexlearningportal.org.uk

Pan Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures

Details of child protection and safeguarding procedures in relation to domestic abuse can be found at:
<http://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk>

East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, ESSCP, is the new name for East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board. You can find out more about what we do and read the reports of recent serious case reviews [here](#)

