

ESSCP Learning: Child 2 Rapid Review

Background

- In September 2023 the ESSCP Case Review Group asked agencies to undertake a 'rapid review' of information they held about Child 2.
- This was following the discovery of a significant number of non-accidental injuries on Child 2's admission to A&E. Child 2 was three weeks old at the time.
- Following the discovery of the injuries, care proceedings were issued.

Why it matters

- Safeguarding Partners agreed that conducting a LCSPR would not provide any significant additional learning. The rapid review had sufficiently drawn out the learning and appropriate actions had been identified to address gaps.
- However, the ESSCP felt that it was important to share this learning and remind professionals of the increased safeguarding risks for babies and infants.

What to do

The ESSCP invite you to discuss some of the issues raised in this learning briefing in your team meetings or during group supervision. We encourage your responses to be included in team minutes and forwarded to the safeguarding lead in your organisation.

1. Have you read our [learning briefing on infant injuries](#)?
2. When was the last time you used the [Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#)? Did you know you can sign up for alerts?
3. Review the [East Sussex Learning Portal](#) for the latest multi-agency safeguarding courses.

Child 2 learning

- **Sharing of information between agencies:** information should be shared regularly through professional networks and through effective core groups being convened, where agency updates and a review of risks can be considered, and appropriate plans formulated
- **Whole family approach:** Pre-birth and subsequent assessments should always include information about significant adults, such as grandparents, or other children, living at the same address. Assessments should also consider the impact of domestic abuse in the household. Supporting professionals should be invited to share relevant information.
- **Limitations in the risks assessed at the pre-birth assessment:** assessments need to be reviewed regularly, and informed by a full picture of what is happening in the household as a whole, not just the immediate parents and unborn. Future assessments should be focused on the needs of the infant and used as an opportunity to identify the need for intervention and prevention.
- **Importance of secure housing:** Becoming a parent at a very young age is challenging enough. When that is compounded by experiences of poor housing, those challenges can become even tougher. Professionals should remember that Housing services have limited flexibility due to housing rules/regulations and are not specialist trained in safeguarding. Stable housing should be considered by the Core Group, in assessments and interventions.

