

CSPR 10 – learning briefing

Background

This case reviewed focused on a 4 month old baby who was born during pandemic and who came to significant harm whilst in the care of their parents, suffering non accidental injuries including fractures to their ribs, arm and femur along with bruising and swelling. Both parents were first time parents and were suffering from anxiety and depression which they had sought help for. One of the baby's parents admitted to causing harm intentionally.

Positive and Proactive Steps

- The Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP) have ensured that professionals are reminded of the 'those who don't cruise rarely bruise' message along with circulation of the babies cry, you can cope resources for parents.
- Partner agencies have made changes to systems to fully engage with fathers (where they are known) and to 'Think Family'. Telford and Wrekin has also implemented a Family Safeguarding Model which is a multi-disciplinary approach to working with families.
- The TWSP have undertaken work to improve practitioners familiarity of current policies and national guidelines on bruising in non-mobile infants.
- Agencies are now more flexible in the way they engage with families to ensure intervention is relevant to the needs of the individual
- Revised Threshold of Need guidance has been circulated to practitioners along with accompanying workshops to allow upskilling and confidence in applying thresholds consistently.



Process

Following receipt of the referral in Spring 2021 a Rapid Review was held where the panel agreed that the threshold for a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review had been met. Immediate safeguarding actions were implemented and an independent author was sourced with the review formally commencing in June 2022 involving practitioners involved with the case alongside managers from across the partnership and input from the family.

Recommendations and Learning - Following completion of the report the following additional recommendations were made:

- That all efforts are undertaken to ensure that fathers/partners are fully known and engaged in their unborn/newborn baby's lives
- That fathers/partners are engaged and offered support and parenting intervention, particularly during the perinatal period
- Adult mental health services should work with Children's Services to ensure information shared reflects the family's situation, any support needs and impact on parenting and children
- Consideration of the family's situation and confidence in engaging online or in-person therapies should inform the agreed intervention
- In-line with the National Panel's guidance, the partnership review its current policies on bruising in non-mobile infants, to check for consistency with the evidence base and national guidelines. This needs to be clearly communicated to practitioners