

Fabricated or Induced Illness / Perplexing Presentation: 7 Minute Briefing

1. Background

A review took place after a 15-year-old young person was removed from their Mothers care due to Fabricated and Induced Illness over a numbers of years.

There was an inconsistent and slow response collectively from agencies to identify and respond to concerns. There was not one particular incident, instead a cumulative effect over at least 4 years.

SSCP have used this case example to consider systems approaches to the management of Perplexing Presentations and Fabricated or Induced Illness.

2. Safeguarding Concern and Incident

Learning was considered through the following thematic areas:

- Approaches to Perplexing Presentations and Fabricated or Induced Illness
- Maternal Resistance, adversarial presentation, and role of the Father
- Child / young person's voice and lived experience
- Multi-agency working / joint risk formulation, escalation, and supervision
- Impact of Covid-19

3. Findings

- There were very early opportunities for PP to be identified
- There was an inconsistency in "Lead Health Professional"
- The Child in Need and Child Protection plans did not adequately reflect the complexity of concerns
- There was an inconsistent response to adversarial maternal behaviour and complaints

4. Findings continued

- There was a lack of consideration of the role of the father
- There was a distinct difference of opinion between agencies and lack of application of the escalation pathway
- There was an absence of professional curiosity
- The voice and lived experience of the child was not evident.

5. Recommendations

Development and implementation of PP/FII practice guidance to include:

- A clear pathway and access to PP/ FII expertise for advice
- Regular updating of multi-agency training and awareness on FII
- Oversight and alignment of complaints processes

6. Recommendations continued

- The role of the Father/ key male to be a focus of work

- The voice of the child to be a key focus of work
- A review of the escalation processes to consider its effectiveness

7. Implementing Change

Progress has commenced in Salford against the areas of learning including:

- Voice of the child- “listening hub”
- Role of the father- “think family” work
- Escalation process review and strengthening oversight.

Development of a PP/FII practice guide is required

Additional Information

Visit: <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

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