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Background

Child MT became looked after as a teenager when the LA initiated care proceedings.

Child MT was placed in foster care separate to his siblings, some of whom went on to be adopted.

Child MT has a large extended family, from the outset he struggled to accept foster care and would frequently be missing from home (MFH), sometimes for long periods of time.

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Safeguarding Concern

Child MT was at significant risk related to being MFH, in particular there was concern about his immediate physical safety and the potential for child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Child MT's welfare was deteriorating; he experienced several placement moves, a managed education move and had poor school attendance

Child MT's emotional welfare was impacted by his younger siblings being placed for adoption and the birth of another child who remained in the care of his mother.

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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

03

Incident

Child MT was subject to a serious sexual assault whilst travelling at night, by a registered sex offender who was subject to license conditions.

Child MT at this point was placed with an independent agency foster carer in a neighbouring borough. Leading up to the incident there are several references to both the foster carer and social worker reporting to police that Child MT was at risk of CSE, however no referral had been made to specialist CSE services. The assault to Child MT was opportunistic.



Child MT- 7 Minute Briefing

Recommendations

1. All Salford LAC (in/outside LA) receive a high level response to MFH. The care plan addresses MFH responses prior to the placement commencing.
2. Audit LAC MFH risk assessments and support to carers
3. IRO should complete connected persons assessment and ensure the child is able to commit to the permanence plan.
4. LA to review the services available for children who experience loss of a sibling to adoption. The Care Plan should address impact and needs.
5. Managed Move Agreements in place for all LAC and signed by a designated senior officer in Children Services.
6. MFH meetings include multi-agency professionals to address/review risk robustly. Professionals meetings should be routinely considered.

Findings

- Fostering services need to ensure that foster carers are in a position to give succinct and accurate information about children are MFH
- The criteria for the MFH team based on geography rather than risk is a potential barrier to providing a skilled and resourceful service to those children at highest risk
- Inappropriate escalation of CSE risk within multi-agency working will ultimately detract from and minimise the impact of considered risk assessment
- When planning for permanence of older adolescents, the assessment of need must take into account the child's wishes and realistically consider their ability to commit to such a plan.

Findings Cont...

- Children who experience the loss of a sibling to adoption need support to help them sensitively understand the legal consequences, explore feelings and identify contact opportunities.
- Managed education moves for LAC require careful consideration of the short and long term implications. Specific agreement should be reached between the education department and Children's Social Care when they share or exercise parental responsibility for a child.

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More information: www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/7minutebriefings.htm

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