

# 01

## Background

Child T was 2 years old and lived with her birth parents. Mother's nationality was Polish and father's was Iranian. The review was commissioned due to Child T being abducted from the UK by her parents in December 2016. The review looked at:

- The interface between parental serious crime and safeguarding children
- The use of Police Protection Orders (PPO)
- Children subject to Care Orders and placed at home
- The use of written agreements
- Parental disguised compliance

# 02

## Safeguarding Concern

Child T was subject to a Full Care Order with Looked After Child (LAC) placed at home status. The Care Order was granted due to concerns about mother's care of her older children who did not live with the family- 2 were in Local Authority (LA) foster care outside Salford. Child T was father's first child and he was deemed the 'primary and protective' parent during Care Proceedings. Over 22 months, the case was assessed as progressing well and an application made to discharge the Care Order. Parents were understood to be fully engaged with involved agencies and compliant with the Care Plan and a written agreement. Evidence of parental disguised compliance unknown to involved practitioners at the time was identified during the review process.

# 07

## 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

Practitioners were unaware of parents being suspected of serious crimes (immigration and money laundering offences) under investigation by a specialist Home Office Criminal and Financial Investigations (CFI) Team. Parents were arrested by CFI and GMP Officers and Child T made subject to a PPO to ensure her safety while they were in custody. Child T was abducted from the UK by her parents 6 days after their release on Police bail. The LA held shared responsibility for her and the crime 'Abduction by Parent' had been committed as parents should not have removed Child T from the UK without LA written permission.



### Child T- 7 Minute Briefing

## Recommendations

1. Children's Services (CS) to provide assurance to the SSCB to ensure the policy on written agreements reflects the learning from this case. Including evidence of review, compliance and agency expectations
2. Information sharing arrangements between CS and GMP regarding LAC to be formally agreed and reflected in the updating of Salford CS internal notification procedures.
3. The SSCB to review relevant SSCB courses to include reference to the different Care Orders and what they mean.
4. GMP and CS should assure the SSCB that a Strategy Meeting/Discussion is always held when a child has been subject to a PPO.
5. Home Office to provide assurance to the SSCB that the systems issues have been strengthened and the learning has been disseminated.

## Findings

- In cases of parental involvement in serious crime, the risks posed to children cannot be effectively assessed and managed without all available information including detail of the suspected crimes being understood. Flight risk possibility should be considered.
- In this case, arresting CFI and GMP Officers were unaware Child T was LAC and she became subject to a PPO. Children's Services practitioners were not made aware of the CFI investigation until after the arrests and limited investigation information was shared.
- Multi-agency safeguarding practice was also hampered by national systems issues including LAC not being flagged on Police systems.

## Findings Cont...

- A multi-agency Strategy Meeting before Child T returned home would have enabled fully informed multi-agency risk assessment and planning and also ensured that expected practice for a Strategy Meeting or Discussion prior to a PPO being rescinded was met.
- LAC placed at home are highly vulnerable. Practitioners need to understand their vulnerability and that effective multi-agency working is vital if they are to be safeguarded and their needs fully met.
- Children's Services regularly use written agreements to support their work with families. All involved practitioners should understand the content of a written agreement, document this in agency records and be clear about their own responsibilities towards it.
- The possibility of disguised compliance should always be considered even when parents present as fully engaged with agencies. Wherever possible, confirmatory evidence of parents completing required actions should be obtained.

# 06

More information: [www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/7minutebriefings.htm](http://www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/7minutebriefings.htm)  
Please download and read the full case review [Executive Summary](#)

# 05

# 04