

Child Safeguarding Practice Review: Helen 7 Minute Briefing

1. Background

Helen arrived in the UK through the Family Reunion process. She was presented to agencies as the adult wife to the adult male, Aaron.

Through contact with housing providers, concerns were raised that Helen presented, in relation to appearance, behaviour and stature as a child (ID stated she was an adult).

Helen was later assessed to be a child, aged 12.

There was delay in the safeguarding concerns and Helen's age being assessed, leading to a referral to the SSCP

2. Findings:

The review concludes that the concerns regarding Helens presenting age were consistently raised, and with various agencies and specialist call centres. The concerns were not effectively escalated via the [professional challenge and escalation policy](#), impacting on delay of further age assessment progressing for Helen. There was an over reliance on the presenting ID of Helen, which was compounded by reassurance from immigration services that the identification of Helen was genuine.

3. Good Practice:

Professional concern and curiosity was evidenced

Housing services placed Helen in a provision with high monitoring as they continued to have concerns that she was a child and not an adult.

Good information sharing between some agencies

4. Recommendation:

A local, multi-agency, effective pathway is developed and embedded to address concerns that a presenting adult may be a child and that the risk of trafficking may be present.

All partners and practitioners to be made aware of the [professional challenge and escalation process](#), when and how it should be used and to support the follow through of professional curiosity to an evidenced based outcome.

5. Recommendation:

All partners and practitioners, working with adults and children are aware of the limitations of immigration ID and the pathway for raising concerns regarding age disputes and trafficking.

6. Recommendation:

UK Visas & Immigration to ensure advice is given to professionals and the public in respect of the evidence base of ID and what to do if someone with an Adult ID is thought to be a

child, therefore having a consistent approach nationally to directing the assessment of a child.

UK Visas & Immigration to consider how they will review the newly implemented changes in light of the learning from this case to ensure safeguarding processes pertaining to the issue of identification are robust and embedded.

7. 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

Additional Information

Please download and read the full [CSPR Final Report](#)

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