

Nicholas 7 Minute Briefing

1. Background

This case relates to a four-year old child of Black British Heritage. His mother moved to Salford aged 21 years from another local authority and presented as homeless, whilst pregnant. Maternal grandmother and step grandfather already resided in Salford with their two children. A Pre-Birth Assessment completed by the previous LA had identified concerns including mother booking in late at 13 weeks and 5 days gestation, reporting low mood and anxiety, residing in her friend's flat, alcohol use during pregnancy, low BMI, limited finances, history of abuse, unable to confirm baby's father, and a limited support network

2. Safeguarding Concern

A Pre-Birth Assessment was not completed by Salford, but a decision was made at the post birth discharge planning meeting, to support the child under Child in Need.

Child in Need was discharged after seven months, and support returned to the universal core programme.

Just after the child had turned 4 years old, mother reported feeling suicidal. She said that she wasn't a good mum and couldn't provide for her child. Mother reported that child was currently safe in grandmother's care. Mother was seen by the Mental Health Liaison Team at the hospital.

3. Incident

Three weeks later mother left the child in the care of his aunt and uncle overnight, who were still children themselves, whilst she visited a neighbouring friend. Mother returned to the property the following day and went to bed. Later that same morning the child was found face down in the bath. He was unresponsive to treatment and sadly passed away.

4. Findings

Ineffective information sharing between other LA and Salford. Gap in information sharing between midwife and Health Visitor.

Assessments did not explore the mother and child's culture.

Child in Need meetings were not minuted or documented therefore a written plan was not shared.

Children's Social Care were not notified when mother reported feeling suicidal.

5. Questions

How can partner agencies assure SSCP of a robust transfer of information policy to be used when a person presents in Salford with safeguarding concerns from out of area, and when a person with safeguarding concerns moves to another area?

6. Questions continued

How can SSCP be assured around discharge processes and the flow of information from all maternity services that support Salford women?

How can partner agencies assure SSCP that work is being undertaken to remind and encourage professionals to practice an open-minded awareness of the differences that cultural background can produce?

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7. Questions continued

How can Children’s Social Care assure SSCP that Child in Need processes are being followed and managed, and how can all partner agencies assure SSCP that professionals from all agencies know when and how to escalate any concerns?

How can Adult Social Care assure SSCP that practitioners are aware that if an adult referred to Adult Social Care has a child, best practice is to liaise with Children’s Social Care?

Additional Information

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

Email: SSCP@salford.gov.uk
