

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Summary

1. The Review (LCSPR)

Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership commissioned this review to consider systems and practice within and across partner agencies regarding the multi-agency responses following the death of an eight-year-old girl and her mother at home.

The circumstances of the deaths are maternal filicide and suicide. Filicide is the act of a parent killing their own child and is a rare but deeply tragic event.

2. Understanding the family

Yvonne was an only child who lived with her mother, her primary caregiver. She had no contact with her father. Her maternal grandmother was an important part of her life, and the family were of Polish-Italian heritage.

Yvonne had a rare genetic condition resulting in complex physical, sensory, and learning needs, which meant she was identified as having a disability.

She was entirely dependent on her mother for daily care and support, and a comprehensive multi-agency care package was in place. Yvonne attended a special school full-time and had an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). She also received regular respite care from foster carers.

Yvonne was described as a smiley, playful little girl with a sense of humour, finding joy in her interactions with familiar adults, particularly her mother.

3. Practice themes to make a difference

The review reflected on key themes that helped the safeguarding partnership understand what had happened and what this meant for practice

✓	Applying an ecological approach to understanding the child within the broader context of family, social, and community systems.
✓	Identifying and supporting parent carers' mental health (particularly thoughts of suicide and homicide) in complex care situations
✓	Strengthening joined-up information sharing between adult and children's services.
✓	Apply a whole-family approach to share and understand risks across adult mental health and children's services.

4. Summary Learning

1	Ecological system theory can strengthen the assessment of children and families, recognising the impact of wider networks.
2	Parent carer assessments depend on coordinated input from children's and adult services, including mental health considerations and the risk of suicide and homicide
3	Parent carers of children with complex needs face increased mental health risks, including suicidal and homicidal ideation. Causal factors include poor physical and psychological health, loneliness, relationship issues, a lack of support for the caring role, and the challenges of navigating complex health, education, and social care systems.
4	Improved understanding of information seeking and sharing within and across agencies, adhering to the principles of whole family working and statutory guidance.
5	Strengthen challenge and curiosity across services supporting parent carers and children, with adult services contributing to multi-agency child protection assessments.
6	Apply a whole-family approach that acknowledges the impact of parental mental health on children, while recognising that this can unintentionally increase feelings of entrapment and risk for parent carers.
7	Shared understanding across adult and children's services of the causal factors affecting parent carers, including how physical and mental health influence parenting and family functioning (see also point 3), and the link between suicidal ideation and homicidal ideation.
8	Strengthen multi-agency practice through existing processes like reflective supervision and interprofessional challenge.
9	Linking child protection and adult mental health plans ensures coordinated action to reduce risks to children from parental mental health issues.

5. Recommendations Include

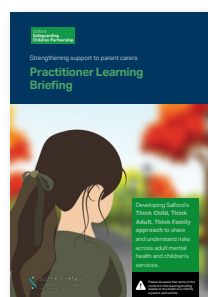
1	Ensure that parent-carer assessments are routinely completed across adult and children's services and include consideration of parental psychosocial needs, including suicide and homicide risk.
2	Prioritise parent carers in Suicide Prevention Strategies as a potential high-risk group and ensure clear pathways for identification and psychological support. This local learning has national practice and policy implications
3	Evaluate the effectiveness of reflective supervision to support critical thinking.
4	The Salford Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) to jointly evaluate the effectiveness of its Think Child, Think Adult, Think Family approach.
5	Ensure there is joined-up working between adult and children's services to share risks, align plans, and strengthen assessment where parental mental health affects child safety.

6. What can you do?

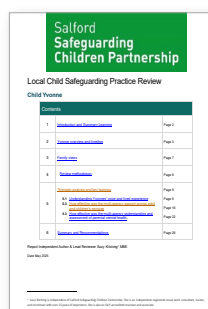
1	Strengthen your knowledge and skills in mapping out the child's wider eco systems (family, school, community, services) through the use of genograms or ecomaps to identify networks and strengths.
2	Ensure there is collaboration with adult/children's colleagues when conducting parent carer assessments. Assessments should appreciate the emotional well-being of parent carers (including the potential for suicidal and homicidal ideation), identify protective factors and strengths that can contribute to developing resilience.
3	Appreciate and recognise parent carers as a vulnerable group and ensure there are direct parental conversations to identify signs of distress and suicidal or homicidal ideation. Access training, resources, and tools to develop and improve your own practice, skills, and knowledge. It's okay to ask for support and help in navigating this challenging aspect of practice.
4	Enhance your understanding and skills about the influence of parental mental health by working with adult mental health professionals and children's services who can share expertise on the adults' and the children's well-being and parenting capacity.

5	Understand your responsibilities across adult and children's services in seeking and sharing information and its critical importance in understanding what is happening within a family.
6	Apply critical thinking and respectful challenge when engaging with colleagues across services. Use supervision and multi-agency meetings to explore differing perspectives, encourage reflective practice (strengths and risks) to challenge decisions and assumptions.
7	Apply a whole-family approach that acknowledges the impact of parental mental health on children, while recognising that this can unintentionally increase feelings of entrapment and risk for parent carers. Embed into practice the principles and approaches promoted in Salford's Think Child, Think Adult, Think Family guidance.
8	Read and reflect on knowledge from local learning reviews and national research to support your practice.

7. Access to the report



There is a **Learning Briefing**. What do you need to know? Associated with this review



Read the **full Report**