

7 minute briefing: Summary of findings from SCR Child 'C'

For all those working with adults, children and families



Strategic Partnership Boards
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

Visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/strategicpartnerships for the full report and other useful resources

01 What is a Serious Case Review? (SCR)

The purpose of a SCR is to look at what happened and why, focusing on the systems that practitioners work within and what action we need to take to change those systems so that practice can be improved.

02 What happened?

Child C was 14 years old and had been living in Waltham Forest for 9 months before his murder in January 2019. He was deliberately knocked off a moped and then stabbed repeatedly.

He had previously lived in Nottinghamshire and had started being home educated but this arrangement broke down. He then had a lot of time unsupervised and was getting into trouble in the community. His mother moved him to Waltham Forest because she was concerned he was falling under bad influences. Before Child C's murder there several assessments and interventions in place as a result of criminal exploitation, weapon related incidents and exclusion from school

07 WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW!

READ

- [Full report](#) and [board response](#)
- [Safeguarding Adolescents Practice Guide](#)

REVIEW

- [Safeguarding Adolescents Resource Pack](#)
- Contextual Safeguarding [tools 1](#) / [tools 2](#)

DISCUSS with your team / in team meetings

- How you can create more opportunities for children to take up support throughout their journey with your service
- How to improve developing trusting relationships with children you are working with to maximise take up of support
- Who in your team will join the practitioner network which provides peer support and advice around all aspects of this complex area of practice
- Whether you and your colleagues all feel confident in your understanding of the complexities of exploitation, debt bondage etc. so that a child will feel more able to accept support

WATCH the bitesize video guides on [safeguarding adolescents](#) and [language matters](#)

LEARN about the new services / pathways in development to maximise how you support children and where to go for specialists advice and support for yourself

EMBED identification and analysis of peer group mapping/networks in your work with children

06 MULTI-AGENCY CASE DISCUSSION IN SAFEGUARDING CASES

This review highlights the importance of using multi-agency case discussions to ensure that all agencies who can contribute to a child's assessment and/or safeguarding plan are able to do so, for example housing

We have already:

- Ensured all county lines police reports now go to the Daily Risk Management Meeting (DRM) in the MASH, starting the multi-agency discussion, planning and response at day one
- Commenced the refresh of the joint assessment agreement with housing to embed joint working with housing

05 CONSISTENT CONTEXTUALISED SAFEGUARDING APPROACH

Not all assessments and intervention plans consider risks from a contextualised safeguarding perspective/approach.

We have already:

- Created an all-age multi-agency Exploitation and Risk Panel by merging 3 existing panels that had oversight of children going missing and children suspected of or being sexually/criminally exploited
- Developed more focus on identifying and analysing peer group mapping/networks in strategy meetings
- Adopted the contextualised safeguarding tools of peer group mapping/networks and peer group assessment triangle to support practitioners
- Refreshed the training material and approach with a new interactive resource pack



03 NATIONAL ISSUES

- **ELECTED HOME EDUCATION AND MULTI-AGENCY CASE DISCUSSIONS (DfE)** Current guidance is not compatible with safeguarding children, particularly those vulnerable to criminal exploitation. [WT 2018](#) guidance could include more on the use of multi-agency case discussions
- **RESCUE AND RESPONSE COUNTY LINES SERVICE (MOPAC)** Clarity is needed on the catchment area
- **ABSENCE OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR RESPONDING TO CHILDREN WHO ARE ARRESTED AND DETAINED AWAY FROM THEIR HOME AREAS (DfE / Home Office / Ministry of Justice)** No country wide consistency processes

The [WFSCB](#) has now written to all the above departments, asking for review and a response and offering to work in partnership with them to address these matters.

04 REACHABLE MOMENTS

There are circumstances when a child may be more likely to take up offers of support. For example, after being arrested in a [county lines](#) situation, or when they have been stabbed or shot and are in hospital etc. We need to capitalise on opportunities to reach out to children.

We have already:

- Created new services/pathways to increase the opportunities for reachable moments in Whipps Cross and the Royal London Hospitals when children attend with violence related injuries
- Strengthened pathways in Leyton Custody Suite
- Implemented a new urgent response protocol for children within 48 hours of identifying exploitation.
- Strengthened the [MASH](#) with a new specialist practitioner to facilitate information sharing with YOS
- Joined Operation Harbinger (Golden Hour), where within 1 hour of a child being booked in at the custody suite Police contact MASH so information can be shared which could create a reachable moment.