

01

Background

Child Q had been the subject of a CPP for emotional abuse. He was taken into care when under one year old, after he was found to have sustained a bite mark while in the care of his mother.

After a period in foster care he was placed in the care of his father, on a Supervision Order, as directed by court.

Child Q's father had a history of domestic violence. In February 2015, Child Q was again taken into foster care after being found to have a number of injuries. His father was charged with neglect.

02

Safeguarding Concerns

Child Q had a heart condition which required ongoing monitoring but he was not registered with a GP. When the father became homeless and the sole carer for Child Q for the 1st time no updated assessment was undertaken.

Contact with Child Q's mother was not maintained.

Safeguarding concerns were raised by Child Q's mother and other children, including another child who had lived with Child Q. Bruising and other injuries were either unexplained or inconsistently explained. When concerns were raised, the advice to services had been to complete a CAF.

03

The Incident

There were a series of incidents which led to the removal of Child Q. When Child Q broke his arm and sustained bruising to his face; he stated that his father had smacked him off his chair. A month later, Child Q was seen with further injuries to his face, his father reporting that he had rammed the baby gate and knocked himself unconscious. These incidents were passed on to Child Q's mother by father's ex-partner; mother subsequently contacted the police who attended the address. Upon discovery of a deprived home environment, Child Q was eventually removed and father was charged with Neglect.

04

The Review

The Review looked at:

- Historical events leading to the implementation of the Supervision Order.
- The support that was provided whilst Child Q was subject to a Supervision Order.
- Management and decision making in relation to the Supervision Order.
- The period after the Supervision Order ended until removal of Child Q including the responsiveness of all agencies in relation to child protection concerns

05

The Findings

Allegations of neglect and cruelty made by Child Q's mother were not always taken seriously, and there were missed opportunities to clarify the lived experience of the child whilst living with his father. There was insufficient direct support of the Supervision Order. There was a lack of challenge when father withheld contact and when safeguarding concerns were raised. The Voice of the Child was often lost due to the disguised compliance of father. Services took his single parent status to mean he needed support rather than ensuring a focus upon investigation and intervention to prevent harm.

The emotional impact of Child Q's experiences moving between family and foster care, and witnessing domestic abuse, was not always considered or understood.

07

Implementing Change

1. Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice.
2. Outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in line with the recommendations.

06

Recommendations

All professionals should understand the implications of any statutory order in relation to a child. Where statutory requirements are not met or practice is not good enough this should be identified and challenged by ANY of the agencies involved. Concerns raised by non-professionals should be taken seriously and properly investigated. Assessments of need should be regularly reviewed and updated and any assessment should account for all those living in the household or other significant adults that may pose a risk of harm. It should also address issues of parental illness, substance misuse and/or mental health and consider how this may impact on parenting capacity and risk of harm to the child. Lastly, the assessment should also consider the daily lived experience for the child together with a view of the historical context and the impact of this on the child's development.

Child Q

7 Minute Briefing



Child Q - Action Plan



Name of Organisation

Team Manager

Name of Section & Team

Contact Details

Identify the learning or recommendations that are relevant to your team and summarise your teams' discussion on those points

1.
2.
3.



Please ensure you keep a copy of this discussion and plan for your records. Tameside Safeguarding Children Board will ask teams to provide evidence of the discussion, agreed actions and for evidence of improvements to practice.

Child Q - Action Plan



What actions have been agreed to improve practice?

What needs to happen?	Who will do it?	By When?	How will you know when it has been done?	How will you know if it has worked?



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