

01 Background

Child T was 12 years old. His parents had been separated for several years. He lived with his Mum and Step-Dad and continued to see his Dad. Child T had a caring and loving relationship with all of his family but his parents had a difficult relationship and did not meet or speak to one another.

02 Safeguarding Concerns

Before and at the time of his parents' separation Child T witnessed Domestic Abuse. His primary school noticed that he was displaying signs of distress and arranged Counselling sessions which had a positive impact. No further concerns were raised until Child T made a disclosure to his secondary school. He said that he'd had an argument with his Mum and that she'd hit him with his X-Box. Child T also said he'd wrapped his school tie around his neck, pulled it tight and kept it that way throughout the night. School made a referral to Children's Social Care who undertook an assessment. Mum was advised to take Child T to see the G.P. who didn't feel there was any intent to self-harm or any risk of suicide. The School made a referral to Counselling and following direct work with Child T and his family Children's Social Care closed the case with no further action required.

03 The Incident

Several months after the incident with the X-Box Child T was absent from school without explanation. School contacted his Mum who was in work and unable to verify he was at home. Child T's step-father returned home that afternoon. A neighbour spoke to him and said that Child T had been seen throwing stones and that he'd broken their window. Step-father spoke to Child T about this and he went to his room. When his Mum returned home she discovered Child T hanging from the bedroom door frame. An ambulance was called and attempts to resuscitate him were made but Child T was tragically pronounced dead.

04 The Review

The Review looked at;

- Information sharing and communication between professionals and partner agencies
- How the emotional health and well-being of children are assessed, understood and responded to
- The impact of domestic abuse on the emotional health and well-being of children
- The referral pathway and criteria for Healthy Young Minds (CAMHS)

05 The Findings

- The G.P. did not speak to Child T alone and information from partner agencies was not shared with the G.P.
- Professionals do not make referrals to Healthy Young Minds when they have 'lower level' concerns.
- The Counselling Service weren't made aware of the incident when Child T wrapped his school tie around his neck.
- Professionals require further support and training to understand and respond to signs and symptoms of emotional distress.
- Child T's father was largely excluded from taking an active role in his son's education, health and development due to a lack of clarity regarding parental responsibility.
- The incident that promoted a Children's Social Care assessment should have also led to a strategy discussion with Police and Health.

06 Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The assessment and referral of young people to counselling services should be included in the children's mental health service pathway.

Recommendation 2

The LSCB should be assured that practitioners in all agencies are aware of relevant guidance and legislation relating to the sharing of information with parents in the context of parental responsibility and that the relevant guidance is applied in all settings.

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 findings and recommendations.

Child T



Child T - 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.

Child T - 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?