

01 Background

Child U was a vulnerable teenager living in a chaotic household with her mother and father, brother, sister and niece. At the age of 12 she was excluded from mainstream school.

02 Safeguarding Concerns

Concerns escalated for Child U when she was excluded from school. She became known to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) having assaulted two girls and during sessions with her YOT worker disclosed that she misused drugs and alcohol. Concerns regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) began to emerge after she was frequently missing from home. Concerns over her emotional wellbeing were identified following episodes of self-harm, overdose and declared intentions to kill herself. Children's Social Care became involved following allegations of physical and emotional abuse against her father. Child U had also reported non-familial sexualised behaviour.

03 The Incident

Child U made an allegation of a sexual offence by a male she met online and there were concerns over her association with males in hotels. She was injured after being involved in a car accident when other family members were in the car who had been under the influence of drugs. Following a number of significant incidents occurring to Child U throughout the period 2014 to 2016 resulting in police involvement and urgent medical care, it was considered that Child U's life was placed at risk. There was also concern over a number of missed opportunities for agencies to be more protective of her and over her case being managed at the wrong level.

04 The Review

The Serious and Significant Case Review Panel reviewed the circumstances of her case and considered that they met the criteria for a Serious Case Review. The review looked at:

- The level of professional response to the child and family circumstances.
- Trigger points when the case could either have been escalated or de-escalated.
- Wider family circumstances and the identification and management of any associated risks.
 - Evidence of purposeful challenge and escalation process.
- The quality of Multi-Agency practice and evidence of good practice.

05 The Findings

- Organisational boundaries acted as a barrier to effective service provision and meant that the child needs were not met
- Child Protection Procedures were not followed correctly including the convening of strategy meetings, assessment, planning and review
 - Teams withdrew their involvement without a multi-agency review and when it was not safe to do so.
 - There was a lack of a Multi-Agency approach and response to early signs of Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Specialist CSE Social Workers were trying to provide specialist support and also manage the statutory social work assessment and planning
 - Professional challenge and escalation is not embedded into routine multi-agency safeguarding practice

07 Implementing Change

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

06 Recommendations

- The application of thresholds and levels of need should be consistent throughout all agencies.
- Good quality Multi-Agency assessment and planning, risk management, regular review and management oversight at all levels of need should identify triggers for escalation and combat drift.
- As a minimum, representatives from the Police, Health and Children's Social Care must be involved in Strategy Discussions and key meetings.
 - All intervention work associated with CSE should be undertaken by highly trained staff.
 - All professionals should be able to make effective use of chronologies, genograms and transfer summaries.
- The Greater Manchester Escalation Policy should be re-launched to promote the message that professional challenge is good practice.
- Services and practitioners need to involve all family members, especially males and fathers, in any assessment associated with the safety and continued wellbeing of all children in a household.

Child U

7 Minute Briefing



Child U - 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 U - 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?