

7 Minute Briefing

Child Practice Review

CPR 4/2018

Improvements to Practice

- Changes made to Social Services procedures and guidelines regarding MARF referrals, now ensures contact is made with the referrer prior to any decision made to curtail any involvement with the child.
- A new electronic system 'My Concern' was introduced in 2016 for primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. The system ensures a more robust, child focused approach to managing safeguarding concerns, including if a child regularly attended school unclean or inadequately clothed. It also ensures a seamless approach when school records are transferred.
- VOG Housing have since revised their procedures and are confident that any future requests to sever gas supplies would result in appropriate safeguarding referrals being made about either children/vulnerable adults left without access to heating, hot water or cooking appliances.

Background

A Concise Child Practice Review was commissioned by C&V RSB in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 guidance for Multi Agency Child Practice Reviews

The subject of the review was a young child, with a life limiting condition. There was evidence of child neglect, due to poor home conditions and the appearance and presentation of the child and older sibling. There was also a continuous failure to meet the child's medical needs, including the administering of prescribed medication, which could have resulted in serious and permanent impairment of health and development. There was also evidence of disguised compliance by the parent.

Context

Previous concerns had been raised in 2015 regarding the appearance and living conditions of the children, which led to a referral to Social Services due to the non-collection of the child's medical prescriptions and non-engagement with professionals.

An anonymous call was made to the RSPCA in 2017 regarding concerns for the welfare of the family's pets. The home was found to be in a poor condition, contaminated with animal urine/faeces, no food and with excessive rubbish and clutter throughout the house. (Excess of 100 black bags of rubbish).

The NSPCC were contacted and safeguarding procedures were initiated. The children were subsequently removed and criminal proceedings were undertaken.

This 7-minute briefing will summarise the key learning from this review.

Recommendations for Improving Systems and Practice (Cont/d...)

- C&V UHB and GP Practices to continue working towards an All Wales GP access system to improve the means by which health teams supporting children with life limiting conditions can access their GP records.
- RSPCA staff to be reminded that they can alert the police to safeguarding issues as well as making a referral to NSPCC.

Recommendations for Improving Systems and Practice (Cont/d...)

- Cardiff and the Vale Regional Safeguarding Board to consider adopting and promoting a Safeguarding Disabled Children Policy.
- Cardiff and the Vale Regional Safeguarding Board to consider adopting and promoting a Hoarding Protocol to complement the C&VRSB Self Neglect Messages for Practice.
- C&V UHB to establish standardisation of health care planning for children with complex, life limiting conditions.
- C&V UHB, in consultation with the Local Medical Committee, to establish a system that allows practices to identify when repeat prescriptions for children with life limiting conditions are not collected from the GP or dispensed from the pharmacy.

Organisational Learning

The following key areas of organisational learning was identified within the review:

- Communication and information sharing.
- Child neglect and disguised compliance
- Housing services and safeguarding concerns.
- Unclaimed prescriptions for child with life limiting condition.
- Access to GP records by medical teams supporting children with life limiting condition.
- Liaison between schools and medical teams supporting a child with a life limiting condition.
- RSPCA and safeguarding arrangement with NSPCC.
- Hoarding, self-neglect and safeguarding.

Recommendations for Improving Systems and Practice

The review made eight recommendations related to the key areas of organisational learning:

- The Child Neglect – Practice Guidance and Protocol is currently under review in the Cardiff and Vale area. Once reviewed, it needs to be disseminated to all staff involved in safeguarding. A multi agency training strategy needs to be developed to refresh all staff with good practice principles and interventions for families with neglected children.
- To enhance awareness and encourage all agencies to use the Protocol for the Resolution of Professional Differences.

