
Improvements Made Briefing:
Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
(LCSPR)
'Child E'

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document focuses on the improvements following a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) commissioned by the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SCP) in December 2021. The purpose of an LCSPR is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. An independent reviewer, Ms. Karen Perry, was commissioned to write the LCSPR and excerpts from that report are used throughout this briefing.
- 1.2. At the request of Child E, now an adult, the full review will not be published. The SCP has an obligation under Working Together 2023 to publish information about the improvements made following a LCSPR, these are outlined below.

Background to the Review

This Child Safeguarding Practice Review is in respect of Child E (age 17 years at the time of writing the report and the incident) a child in the care of Leicester City Council (Local Authority 1), who made allegations of sexual assault against her male foster carer. Assaults were alleged to have happened more than once, in several places in and around the home. The process led by Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Local Authority 2¹ concluded that the allegations were credible, taking into account some similarities with concerns raised by a previous foster child.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SCP) agreed to undertake this review using a learning model which engages frontline staff and their managers in reviewing cases, focussing on why those involved acted as they did at the time. Child E and family members were offered the opportunity to speak to the lead reviewer. No-one wished to. The timeframe this review focusses on is April 2019 to December of 2021.

¹ The responsible LADO for foster carers is the LADO for the local authority where the carers live, in this case LA2. That LADO will decide whether the threshold for a Position of Trust meeting is met, invite the police, the fostering social worker and social workers for any children placed (who might be from another local authority). Consideration should also be given to any risks for the carers' own children or any other children that had regular contact with the household. The responsible LADO should also ensure that the LADO from those other local authorities is kept informed. If any enquiries establish that the carer might have contact with children (or vulnerable) adults in other aspects of their lives e.g., employment or volunteering, (which did not apply in this case) relevant agencies/local authorities will be joined in as appropriate.

Learning Themes

The learning from this review was considered under the following themes:

- Children’s voice and disclosing abuse
- Recognising and addressing children’s vulnerability to sexual abuse
- Working with foster carers, support, monitoring and matching
- Management of incidents, concerns, complaints and allegations about foster carers
- Support for the child
- Cross boundary issues, partnership working and escalating differences of opinion

2. Summary of improvements made

2.1. The following suggested nine actions were recommended by the SCPs Case Review Group in response to the authors recommendations within the full report; the associated actions taken are outlined below:

a) The Individual Fostering Agency (IFA) and Leicester City Council to develop a process related to foster home reviews and information sharing; and a 1-minute guide to promote professional curiosity and settled placements.

- The IFA have undertaken a case file audit and practice guidance regarding Foster Carer Supervisions this has been launched and includes direct reference to applying professional curiosity; evidencing fundings and impact on placement stability. The launch was delivered through mandatory training attended by all Supervising Social Workers and will form part of the induction for any new starters.
- One-minute professional guides have been developed and distributed in common staff areas and handed to staff in the form of a bookmark. IFA management training has been delivered, which includes evidence-based practice showing professional curiosity through management oversight.
- A learning briefing was developed within the IFA and used as part of reflection workshops with staff.
- Within Childrens Social Care (CSC) learning has been shared across the workforce regarding continual curiosity and focussing on the behavioural detail of daily life for children and young people. Independent Review Officers supervision process was adapted to ensure that there was a focus on “safe and settled” children. The implementation of the [Lundy model](#) where practitioners focus on voice, space, audience and influence has ensured that young people are given more opportunities to be heard.

b) That Leicester City Council placements team provide assurance that arrangements are in place to enquire both prior to matching and annually whether there have been previous referrals to LADO in the city or in the home authority?

- It is now standard practice when placements are being sought that enquiries are made prior to matching to understand where there have ever been any previous referrals to a LADO in Leicester, and in the carers home authority (if this is different).
- Annual checks are completed as to whether there have been any referrals in the past 12 months.

c) The LADO services and the IFA consider establishing arrangements so that LADOs provide risk analysis content for Post Allegation Reviews which include both annual Foster Home Reviews and reviews of suitability to foster which take place at the relevant Fostering Panel following LADO enquires.

- There is a clear IFA process of ensuring the LADO is informed of the outcome following any carer review that has been presented to panel following an allegation.
- Risk analysis takes place at the LADO outcome meeting as part of routine practice. This is considered within the Foster Home Review process, and the outcomes of any recent LADO investigation forms part of any assessment as to whether the carers continue to meet fostering standard at Panel.

d) Improve practitioners awareness of who the relevant LADO is when carers live in another local authority.

- The [LLR Policy and Procedures](#) state this information, this is in line with statutory guidance.
- Training is offered routinely to social workers, including new starters and newly qualified social workers as part of induction, on LADO processes. This includes which LADO is responsible for managing any investigation, if carers live in another Local Authority.
- It is a requirement within CSC that the Leicester LADO is notified when a referral is made to a LADO in another Local Authority. This ensures that there is a record of any allegations made by children who are in the care of Leicester City and investigations into these allegations. This information is shared with the commissioning service and the child or young person's Independent Reviewing Officer, to ensure information sharing.

e) Sessions to be developed for the children's social work teams by City Council supervising social workers and the IFA:

- ***to understand the social worker roles (children and supervising);***
- ***to share information consistently***
- ***to challenge where appropriate.***

- Mandatory training has been delivered within the IFA to all Supervising Social Workers and Operations Managers on the following topics: Support and Supervision of Carers and the Supervising Social Workers role and responsibility within this (including information sharing and challenge).
- The learning regarding the role of the Supervising Social Workers was shared in divisional briefings across CSC in March 2023. It was felt that further sessions were not required and the focus on networks as part of the implementation of the Signs of Safety model ensured the regular involvement of all professionals involved in planning.

f) Agencies involved in the LCSPR provide assurance that learning points have been identified and action has been taken to address and disseminate them.

- Learning from reviews is shared as standard practice within agencies.
- Individual reflection sessions took place within the IFA for the Supervising Social Worker (SSW) and Operational Manager involved in the case and this was followed up with a learning session with the full SSW team, management team and panel members in August 2023.
- Leicester City Councils Childrens Social Care (CSC) provided a “learning from reviews” session for the CSC and Early Help workforce where this case featured.
- A 7-minute briefing has been produced by the local Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships for all staff working across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland on the topic: Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment signposting them to helpful advice, guidance and procedures.
- An event was held in May 2024 entitled “Prioritising Child Sexual Abuse”. This was organised by the local Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships and hosted by the [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse](#) (CSA centre). This event was designed to help practitioners identify and respond to child sexual abuse and confidently support children and their families; signposting practitioners to helpful advice and guidance to support them in giving victims, survivors and families affected by child sexual abuse the support they need. Keynote speakers included a range of experts in the field and colleagues from the CSA centre. The event was attended by over 180 practitioners from many different agencies across the local area.

g) City Fostering Team to provide assurance to the Case Review Group, although the service was not involved in this review there are parallels with learning from other reviews.

- Workshops have been held with the fostering service where lessons from reviews were shared.

h) The Local Authority front doors for City, County and Rutland are reminded of the need to identify if there are any other children in the household at the point of referral and whether any communication is needed with any other agencies as a result.

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- This expectation has been reiterated to the Front Door regarding the point of referral and is further reviewed through LADO oversight. It is now common practice. Local Authority carers are reminded of the need to identify regular visitors to household. This is considered as a matter of routine within the Foster Home Review process.
- The IFA has issued reminders to staff and Foster Carers about agency policy and practice expectations around household members and frequent visitors. A revised carer Supervision Agreement was launched that made clear that foster carers are responsible for informing the agency of any changes to the household composition.

i) Reminder to agencies that Looked After Children should be registered at a GP close to where they live.

- IFA safety compliance checks include reviewing children's GP status. Reminder to staff and foster carers about children being registered with local healthcare providers, including GPs, and captured through child progress reports in foster carer supervisions.
- This is an expectation in CSC which is considered at the 72hour placement planning meeting and involved with GPs, health concerns are reviewed regularly through the Looked After Child review process.

For any questions regarding this briefing please contact the Leicester Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Officer LSCPB@leicester.gov.uk