

Practice Reviews are learning exercises and not investigations to find out who is to blame for things going wrong, with the overall purpose being that of improving practice.

Multi-Agency Practice Review, R.E: B

The Family T SCR considered multi-agency practice from the time B was known to be pregnant until the twins were placed into foster care. B had been a looked after child in the three years prior to becoming pregnant and it was decided that there were opportunities for practice learning during this period.

The SCR focussed on the lives of the twins whilst the Practice Review assessed the effectiveness of help and support provided to B whilst a child in care.

Hear B's Voice

"People didn't take time to get to know me, they were just doing their jobs. They didn't know how to handle me. People had no understanding of what I wanted they always thought that I was kicking off and I just wanted them to listen."

"I asked for therapy all the time and just didn't get it. No one was listening to me and I just thought why keep repeating myself when the social workers don't care."

"My first IRO was amazing, massive, had him for years but he retired, I said I didn't want him to go. He kept saying 'she needs therapy, she needs education'. He was really on it. He would ring me between meetings to check that I was ok."

"I understood that I was moved sometimes to keep me safe...It was traumatising when I was moved, it's a traumatising thing to do to a person, turn up and remove them from everything that they know. There would be a black car and people with restraints to take me away – it happened 4/5 times. I wouldn't do that to my own kids. It made me anxious every day, I was thinking will they come today to move me, I couldn't settle. "

*"Independence scared me a bit I was all on my own, I had a PA but they were not really involved. ***** was an amazing social worker who supported me through my arrest and did what was best for me at the time."*

"Since I have been in care, I have had 5 social workers and I have not felt listened to by any of them. They are difficult to contact and can never answer my questions. I have never seen my social workers regularly and have never been made aware of changes to social workers until it had already happened...I am very unhappy about being in care and feel that I am kept completely in the dark about all things in direct relation to my life. Nobody discusses with me the changes that happen, which makes me feel angry and that I cannot trust anybody. The only people I feel genuinely care about me are the ones that cannot make decisions. Projects like RUSafe have such an impact..."

"They just didn't help me to maintain my family contact. I put a lot of my trust in the carers but they didn't help me. The carers and social workers didn't really care for me at the time and I trusted them, they were the ones who made decisions..."

"No one took time to get to know me, no one understood. They didn't listen, I would kick off then I got arrested. Each care home could have worked if they had helped me and just listened..."

"I have difficulty with my emotions and they're very extreme- the last 4 years have been the worst time in my life...I got pushed to the side. I had no stable reliable person...I trashed my room because I was really frustrated."

Themes

Themes that have emerged during the analysis of B's time in care include:

- ◆ Assessment
- ◆ Looked after children- processes and procedures
- ◆ Identification of and response to child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- ◆ Multi-agency cooperation and communication
- ◆ Voice of the child
- ◆ Escalation

Agencies Involved; Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, CCG, Thames Valley Police, Housing, Oxford Healthcare Foundation Trust (CAMHS), Barnardo's RUSafe, Virtual School

Findings

Improvements to the assessment process and provision of chronologies specifically for looked after children

The development and monitoring of care plans for looked after children which are aspirational and have clear outcomes

Development of a strategic framework to address and monitor CSE

Improved processes which evidence that the voice of looked after children has an influence on decisions which impact on their lives

Continuation of services from CAMHS when looked after children move area

Improved oversight and robust challenge by the IRO to ensure that looked after children receive the best possible support and care

Increased use of the escalation processes when practitioners have concerns that the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children in care are not effectively addressed

Development of policies and practice to reduce the criminalisation of looked after children

Resources

[Learning from case review briefings | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Looked after children | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting Year 2020 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Reframing the Narrative of Foster Children in the UK - YouTube](#)

[R.U.Safe? Bucks Exploitation Service | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

[Lemn Sissay: A child of the state | TED Talk](#)

[Brené Brown: The power of vulnerability | TED Talk](#)

[Top 10 TED Talks for Social Workers – Best MSW Programs](#)

Who are we and what do we do?

[About the BSCP - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](#)