



**KEY LEARNING
POINTS FROM
BSCB & NATIONAL
REVIEWS
AND BSCB AUDITS**

2014

BSCB Serious Case Reviews

1. To promote a culture of challenge and escalation where issues are not resolved between agencies
2. To strengthen collaboration and information sharing between professionals in the identification of vulnerable families
3. To promote a culture that involves working with both parents, including them in all relevant discussions and assessments
4. The safety of all siblings must be assessed
5. For the purposes of child protection and service provision, all professionals must understand that a child remains a child until he / she is 18 years old
6. Formal risk assessments must be undertaken for all children and young people who self-harm – using the Self Harm Pathway
7. Care plans and Reviews should always consider any additional risks and vulnerabilities for children placed out of county
8. Planning for children and young people must take account of their longer term experiences and needs, rather than just responding to the most recent incidents.
9. Deviations from rigid structures should be considered where these are not proving effective in meeting the needs of children / young people
10. The longer term impact of bereavement must be considered in the assessment of children and young peoples' needs

National Serious Case Reviews

1. Consideration of the significance of concealed pregnancies
2. Full consideration of even minor injuries to pre-mobile infants
3. Adults may set out to deliberately deceive the professionals they have contact with
4. Recognising the value of multi-agency assessments
5. Ensure that there is an understanding of the child's experience of living in the family
6. Some children are targeted within the family for abuse and neglect, even when older sibling have been well cared for

BSCB Partnership Reviews

1. The need to identify who is in the child's household – obtaining their specific details rather than just recording 'mother's partner', particularly for reconstituted families
2. To listen to the child and / or make sense of their behaviours
3. The need to collate merged chronologies across agencies for longer term cases
4. The need to consider other risks which might be masked by long term neglect e.g. sexual abuse
5. The need to involve adult services in assessment and planning where there are parental factors such as mental health, substance misuse, learning difficulties etc.

Key Messages from BSCB Audits

- Staff need to familiarise themselves with the signs and symptoms of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Access the BSCB website and CSE Training
- When high risk young people don't engage with your service, always check their engagement with other services and, where appropriate, apply the BSCB's High Risk, Harder to Reach Young People Protocol
- Where existing processes do not prove effective in meeting the needs of a particular child or young person, consider, in partnership with other agencies, alternative ways of working
- Staff need to familiarise themselves with the principles of Information Sharing, so that matters of 'confidentiality' and 'consent' are appropriately considered and do not act as an automatic barrier to sharing information to safeguard or promote the welfare of children and young people
- Early identification of vulnerability or risk factors in pregnancy is essential to developing effective early help or, where appropriate, protection plans