

Background

A statutory review was recently completed following an incident involving adults and children which resulted in fatalities.

Good practice

Excellent support, assistance and access to services was provided by Children's Social Care, housing, health providers, safeguarding organisations and professionals in the local area, over a number of years, acknowledging domestic abuse concerns.

Key Learning

- Safeguarding supervision should be improved to ensure that supervisors and their safeguarding practitioners:
 - Display more professional curiosity within both child and adult safeguarding referrals.
 - Are reminded of their responsibilities regarding sharing of information, risk assessments, comprehensive record keeping, and communication.
 - Record the rationale and outcome for giving a potential victim advice to utilise Clare's Law, and are reminded that professionals have the ability to utilise Clare's Law on behalf of the victim.
- Risk assessments and communication between practitioners during a multi-agency safeguarding meeting or strategy discussion should consider the wider impact on the child or young person and associated adults, should medium or high-risk domestic abuse or child safeguarding concerns exist.
- Any safeguarding risks should be addressed before a safeguarding enquiry is closed; this should be supervised.
- The family GP should be advised when a parent of a child is referred for potential mental health issues with associated domestic abuse concerns.
- If there is a reported concern for a person's mental health and welfare enquiries need to be conducted to confirm whether the person has access to children or to an adult with domestic abuse or other safeguarding concerns, so the risk is assessed. This assessment should take into consideration factors such as culture, race, belief and socio-economic circumstances.
- The Local Authority should publish their own Domestic Abuse Policy incorporating the learning and guidance from both local and national policies and procedures.
- Domestic Abuse professional practice should be reviewed for flexibility when a case may not meet the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub threshold for police checks.
- Professionals should be aware of and challenge disguised compliance and non-compliance, and should follow up, recording the rationale and outcome.

All agencies are responsible for disseminating this learning to their staff members and making the relevant changes to practice within their setting.

What have we done?

- CNWL has implemented children's safeguarding supervision with adult mental health services in the area.
- Milton Keynes City Council recently published its Domestic Abuse policy.
- An information letter has been created for use by the Hospital Liaison Team, which goes to the GP and 0-19 Teams. Work is currently underway to see how this can be used by other mental health teams and addiction services.
- All members of CNWL staff are encouraged to use their Domestic Abuse Routine Enquiry Template at all contacts.
- CNWL reviewed their 'Was Not Brought' policy earlier this year and advertised this in their staff briefing. This is raised in all training and further training is offered around having difficult conversations.

What do we still have to do?

- A robust action plan has been developed. This will be reviewed and monitored by the MK Together Safeguarding Partnership Assurance Board.

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