

01 Background



Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) regularly conducts SCR. They are extensive pieces of work, and the intention behind this investment is to ensure that we all learn from these cases. In 2015, the LSCB published three SCR. They were called child M (published April 2015), Child N (published May 2015), and Child L (published July 2015).

Another review, (YP A) which involved Lancashire agencies was published by Lincolnshire LSCB. The four reviews concerned diverse situations. Child M was a 17 year old who may have killed themselves, Child N (4 years) was killed in a house fire set by their mother who also died at the time, Child YPA (17 years) committed suicide, and Child L (6 years) and their mother were killed by father.

Why it matters 02



In SCR, children have either died or been seriously injured, so learning from these situations is important in order to avoid future child deaths. In all of the above SCR, the children died, albeit in very different circumstances.

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Questions

Are there any of the lessons which we can use to improve our systems or practice?

Do we always know what the child is experiencing?

Do we know what 'a day in the life of' this child is like?



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What to do

Take a moment to reflect on the lessons above.



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Information

Whilst the cases did not have much in common, the learning for professionals has some themes to it. They were:

- Keeping focus on the child and understanding the child's lived experience.

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- Information sharing, particularly when consent is not given. Additionally, giving the context to the information sharing, so the recipient understood the context.

- Risks to older teenagers from drugs, alcohol, self-harm is a safeguarding issue

- Using standard processes well for children of all ages
- The importance of understanding the impact on the child's life of parents with poor mental health, but no recognised mental health condition.

Conversely, for mental health professionals to consider the impact of the parent's

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mental health condition on the child.

- The importance of routine monitoring for domestic violence, even where no concerns exist and creating an environment where it can be discussed.
- The importance of accurate, timely and precise recording
- The importance of working with all professionals involved with a child/family and the importance of all professionals working together with a child/family.
- The importance of reflective supervision and training to support practice

