

## **Child LG Serious Case Review Learning Brief** **To Be Published 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

### **Case Summary**

Lancashire LSCB commissioned a Serious Case Review (SCR) regarding a child known as Child LG who was seriously injured whilst in the care of family members.

During the timeframe used for the SCR, the family lived in three different local authority areas. Child LG was cared for at home by both Mother and Father, who mostly engaged with all health professionals following the birth of Child LG. When LG was nearly one month old a referral was made to Children's Social Care regarding possible risks within the family. Checks were undertaken by Children's Social Care and it was concluded that Mother and Father were acting appropriately in terms of safeguarding at home, managing any risks and supporting their children. It was apparent that the risks had been identified whilst the family had been living in the other local authorities but information had not been fully transferred.

Sadly early in 2016 an incident occurred leading to LG being seriously injured. The full circumstances are not yet known and the Police are continuing their enquiries. However, there is a suspicion that the injuries to LG, a non- mobile child at the time, were inflicted and not the result of an accidental cause.

The review highlighted key themes which are listed below:

- All professionals should discuss with families at routine contacts about coping with an inconsolable crying baby and the dangers associated with 'shaking the baby'. Support should be provided to families to help them consider how they may cope should this issue arise for them. The LSCB will be developing an awareness raising programme and documentation to support agencies with this;
- When it is known that a family receiving Early Help services have moved to a different area, professionals should ensure information is shared with their counter-parts in the new area particularly highlighting any risks or concerns;
- Information should always be shared with partner agencies, and within agencies (for example in different education settings) when there are safeguarding concerns;
- Managers should discuss with their staff key information sharing principles to enhance their confidence in relation to when it is appropriate to share information, such as – 'is it in the best interest of the child?';
- When safeguarding concerns are evident, a pre-birth assessment should be considered, clear decisions and outcomes should be recorded;
- Prior to closing a referral, a timely, formal holistic assessment including family dynamics should be undertaken;
- All professionals should be familiar with early help processes and fully understand how to invoke such processes;
- Following all ante-natal appointments detailed and timely recording of the appointment/ interaction (including accompanying attendees) should be clearly documented;

### **Good Practice Highlighted:**

The newly involved health visitor made an immediate referral to Children's Social Care after being told about the previous allegations to ensure risks to the new born LG and older sibling had been appropriately assessed.

The full SCR report will be published to the [LSCB website](#) once all other investigations are completed. The report includes information on practice issues, good practice and recommendations.