

Learning Summary Family A

July 2017

A summary of the case:

In 2010 Family A moved to Hampshire from another Local Authority area (mother, father and four children). They had a history of children's social care involvement for neglect and at the time of the move the children were subject to a Supervision Order. The previous Local Authority informed Hampshire that it would retain responsibility for the Supervision Order until it ended. It was not until nine months after the move that Hampshire Children's Services received a chronology of involvement in the previous Local Authority Area.

Between 2011 and 2014 Hampshire Children's Services received a number of contacts raising concerns for the children. All concerns were investigated and it was deemed appropriate that no further action was taken. The information contained in the chronology from the previous local authority was not included in assessments until 2014.

From November 2014 until April 2015 the case was held in the Early Help Hub. In April 2015 a Section 47 investigation was initiated and assessments then fully considered and analysed information from the chronology and the case file information from the previous Local Authority.

The following concerns were identified and assessed:

- All four children had developmental delays
- Concerns regarding sleeping arrangements
- Lack of routine, poor diet and hygiene
- Poor neglectful parenting
- Neglectful home environment
- Regular cancellation of appointments by parents
- Parents' mental health and impact on the children
- Non engagement and disguised compliance
- Consideration of Fabricated illness

Learning points for Children's Service's practitioners and managers:

- Transfer of cases into Hampshire – if a child moves into the area under any statutory order (not including a Care Order) then a Legal Strategy Meeting should be initiated
- Transfer of cases into Hampshire – if awaiting further information from the previous authority, the case should not be closed before this is received.
- Whilst some social workers are confident in challenging legal advice when they disagree, this is not always consistent. The issue should be escalated to a district manager.

- Staff have been reissued the practice recording guidance that reminds of the need to check parental records.
- Team managers to consider the chronology as part of the authorisation of the assessment process

Themes in common with other reviews in Hampshire:

- The importance of timely and full information sharing in cases which cross Local Authority borders
- The need for effective information sharing within and across agencies involved with the family.
- Ensuring family history is fully known and included in assessments.

If you do one thing, take the time to.....

Ensure that full family history is considered in current and future assessments.

How was learning achieved:

A half day Case Review workshop was facilitated by two managers from Hampshire Children's Services who were independent from managing social care teams. Attendees at the workshop included a District Manager, an Independent Reviewing Officer, two Social Workers from Children's Services and a Designated Safeguarding Nurse from a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Those at the workshop used the detailed information provided by the scoping exercise from agencies and the knowledge and experience of those present.

In addition to the workshop a case transfer protocol has been produced which will be approved as a 4LSCB document. The protocol will support agencies in ensuring best practice is followed when a family moves from one Local Authority Area to another.

[Protocol for Protecting Children who Move Across Local Authority Borders](#)

Training and resources;

HSCB Training- HSCB offers a variety of face to face and online courses.

[HSCB Training 2016/17](#)

Online Child Protection procedures

[4LSCB Procedures](#)

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