

## TS Local Child Safeguarding Practice

### Review (LCSPR) Learning Notes

#### What happened?

Child TS died aged 5 months in 2019. The cause of death was unascertained and no criminal charges were made. Parents were teenagers at the time of the conception and in a new relationship. At birth, TS lived with Mother and great-grandmother (GGM)

There were difficulties in the relationship between GGM and Father of TS and professionals believed both were trying to control Mother. At one stage Police were called by GGM complaining about Father's behaviour.

Mother had a Young Parent Maternity Support Worker during pregnancy due to her age. TS became the subject of a Single Assessment due to concerns raised about the relationship between GGM and Father at the time of the birth.

Shortly after birth there were concerns about TS's low weight which resulted in a hospital admission for further investigation and monitoring.

Professionals believed Mother and TS were living with GGM. Due to the difficult relationship between GGM and Father, TS spent time at the home of father's extended family however no professionals visited TS there.

When TS died there were serious concerns about home conditions where the family were staying (with paternal relatives).

#### What did we learn?

-There was limited understanding of the child's daily life, including where TS was living.

-Parents' own childhood experiences were not understood therefore the impact of any trauma they experienced was not considered

-Risk factors were evident but not well communicated between the professionals involved.

-The policy for when an injury is sustained by a non mobile baby was not followed when TS was involved in an accident a few weeks prior to death (not related to death)

-Professionals were not sufficiently curious or aware of the importance of exploring father's background, including historic or current mental ill health when there is a new baby.

-Health systems are complex and professionals not working in the NHS may find it difficult to understand the many facets.

### **How can we learn from this case?**

Routine questions and assessments need to consider the relationship with all significant family members who are involved in the care of the child

If it emerges that a baby is living between homes, professionals need to consider the impact this will have on the baby.

When undertaking a single assessment social workers need to consider information held by **all** involved health professionals.

All assessments undertaken by any professional need to consider **both** parents

If in doubt, seek advice from your manager, safeguarding lead or contact the SCSP Business Unit on **SCSP\_Business@sandwell.gov.uk**