

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

YOUNG PERSON SD

March 2024



Sandwell Children's
Safeguarding
Partnership

All children subject to a LCSPR are given a pseudonym to protect their identities - in this case the young person is referred to as 'SD.'

This briefing is for all professionals working with children and families in Sandwell, regardless of agency/role. Please read and share the full LCSPR for the full learning/recommendations

SD was 17 years old when they received life changing injuries in 2022. Despite an intensive police investigation, the criminal case has been filed pending further information.

The family were offered the opportunity to participate in the LCSPR.

Key learning points were established at a multi-agency Rapid Review held shortly after the incident. A Reflective Learning Event was held with practitioners known to the family to reflect and identify learning for the partnership.

The LCSPR has been embargoed since completion in 2023 whilst the criminal investigation was active.

What will you do differently as a result of this learning?

The key learning

- The lived experience of children witnessing involvement by several agencies in their lives can negatively affect their views - practitioners should consider this in their analysis and planning.
- Language should be clear and not reinforce stereotypes and unconscious bias.
- The role of the Lead Professional and co-ordination of support in the Early Help arena should be reinforced via briefings.
- Adultification leads to a child being perceived as older than they are, meaning higher likelihood of criminalisation and lower levels of safeguarding.
- The join up between children's services and adult social care can be challenging, particularly when a young person has 'capacity.' Being exploited will impact on capacity.
- Creativity and persistence is key to engaging families who have had involvement from different services.
- Space to critically reflect on input is critical for practitioners, such as through supervision or case discussion.
- Ecomaps and genograms are a good way to collate information.

How can all partner agencies learn from this review?

- Undertake relevant training to ensure you understand your role in providing Early Help support and as a Lead Practitioner - **remember 'Early Help' is not a specific team, almost all practitioners working with children in Sandwell can provide Early Help.**
- Increase awareness and understanding of adultification - the SCSP produced a briefing on this topic.
- Be mindful of language choices and respectfully challenge colleagues where language is victim blaming/adultifies.
- Carefully plan for ongoing support needs when a child is about to turn 18.
- When working with families, always consider what daily life is like for the children and gain their voice/views to identify the best ways of working with them.
- Shape thinking to 'How can I help this child/family?' removing the stance of 'my role' and 'your role'. All partners must work together with the family to achieve better outcomes.