

7 Minute Briefing

Child Multi-Agency Audit – Exploitation

What can you do now?

- Ensure information you have is shared with relevant agencies effectively and timely, please view our 7 minute briefings on for more information
 - [Information Sharing](#)
 - [Information Sharing – 7 golden rules](#)
- Ensure you are raising the profile of Exploitation in your practice with community, housing and supported housing providers
- Look out for the following:
 - new Exploitation Transition Protocol – ready for launch
 - Practice Guidance on undertaking mapping activities – to be developed

Background

As part of the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership multi-agency audit calendar for 2021-2022 an audit on Exploitation took place between Apr – June 2022 to quality assure that findings from recent Walsall reviews have been implemented. The panel met to analyse the findings on 15th June 2022

Children were known to the following agencies:

Walsall Children’s Social Care (CSC)
Walsall Early Help
Walsall Healthcare Trust (School Nursing)
West Midlands Police
Black Country Healthcare Trust
Youth Justice
Street Teams
Probation
GPs

Aim of the audit

This audit reviewed the effectiveness of the multi-agency practice where child or young person had experienced or is at risk of exploitation by exploring the questions that were linked to Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) [guidance](#) but essentially covered within the following areas:

- The Identification of Risk and Referral
- Assessment
- Decision-making and Management Oversight
- Planning
- Child and Family Engagement
- Multi-Agency Working and the Impact for the Child

Areas for development cont.

- Information-sharing between Children’s Services and health was raised within specific audits. There were also concerns raised about the timeliness of emotional wellbeing support for some children and young people, or where this support had dropped off

Areas for Development

- There were two instances where children and young people had not met the thresholds for CSC involvement, and professionals were not clear about the best ways to offer coordinated support until the situation had changed and this level of professional involvement was required.
- There were inconsistencies identified in how mapping was undertaken, and for one child engaging other local authorities in coordinated mapping and intervention was a challenge.
- One young person did not receive effective support in her transition to adulthood, and challenges were identified in how her support accommodation understood and responded to her needs.
- Coordinated multi-agency working relied on the approach of those professionals involved, but for one child there was a lack of clear identification of drift in understanding her needs and coordinated professional support.

Good Practice

- There were some really positive examples of skilled professional work to engage with children, young people and families who were at points of crisis and had experienced trauma and adversity.
- The Exploitation Hub was found to function well, and triage and information-sharing assisted timely understanding of needs where there was clear evidence of concern.
- The exploitation toolkit was generally well understood, and was used to assess risks and identify needs.
- The work of Street Teams was valued and purposeful in offering help and support to vulnerable children, young people and their families.
- For two children in particular where there were high levels of vulnerability and risk received timely and purposeful support that made a difference for them and their families

Case Selection and Grade

The scope of this audit was that a child or young person had been assessed as being at risk of exploitation and who were open to CSC

Overall, the multi-agency audit team determined the practice for 3 audits was good in the last 6 months (although for one child there were systematic challenges therefore some areas were requires improvement), 1 case that was graded requires improvement and 1 case was inadequate and was escalated for review accordingly.