

# 7 Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Audit – Adolescents Receiving Support at Level 3 Early Help



## 7 Recommendations & Next Steps

- LADO webinar and induction programme to be updated and rolled out.
- Practice development work for Level 3 Early Help practitioners focused on understanding and assessing identity, particularly in relation to adolescents.
- CAMHS to complete assurance activity regarding the risk assessment of those children on waiting lists and report to PQA via agency report.
- CAMHS in partnership with wider safeguarding partnership to agree expectations in terms of updating information.
- Scope out potential for agreed upon approach for Family Network meetings for the Early Help partnership.

## 1 Scope and Purpose

The scope of this audit was consideration of young people aged 13 years and over who at the time of the audit were being supported under Level 3 Early Help Services. Three of the children were open to Targeted Early Help through the Local Authority and for two of the children the lead professionals were Education and Health respectively. There has been multi-agency involvement with key input from Early Help, Children’s Social Care, health and education, police and other support agencies. This audit is intended to review current practice and the recommendations, and the action plan from this will be overseen by the multi-agency Early Help Steering Group.

## 6 Recommendations & Next Steps

- Practice development for practitioners on cultural genogram and chronologies.
- Early Help, Children Services to develop a supervision form for Mosaic.
- School Nursing to undertake assurance activity in relation to their supervisions and fed back to PQA via agency report.
- Training to be developed and delivered in relation to working with families where consent is an issue.
- Promotional work required by school nurse service to ensure all services are clearly aware of the offer and the referral process.

## 2 This audit included the following specific questions:

1. What have been the strengths and areas of good practice in multi-agency working?
2. What have been the challenges in multi-agency working?
3. What are your reflections as a group specifically on multi-agency working in relation to working with adolescents at Early Help Level 3 and what learning would you take back from this conversation into your practice?
4. What additional feedback would you like to give the panel?

## 5 Areas for Development

- Ensure we are always thinking family.
- A greater understanding of the child and families’ histories.
- To more effectively assess and understand children’s identity needs particularly when thinking about adolescence.
- To support practitioners and managers in working effectively with resistance when considering issues of consent.
- Greater awareness is required across the safeguarding system of the school nursing offer and how this can be accessed.
- Consideration of the effectiveness of the oversight of Lead Practitioner roles at Early Help and ensuring that they are meeting the needs of all of the family.

## 4 Good Practice

- Referrals were generally timely and appropriate and there was a consensus that the families were generally being held at the right threshold for support and there wasn’t any evidence at this time of professional challenges around threshold.
- There was evidence of SMART plans that were generally focused on the right level of intervention for the family.
- There was evidence of excellent engagement work with families which resulted in some positive outcomes for the children and families.
- Practitioners spoke strongly about the effectiveness of the inter-agency of relationships and how they supported them in making changes with families.

## 3 Audit Findings

1 audit was rated as good, 3 audits were rated as requires improvement with features of good practice and 1 was rated as requires improvement.

### Agency Involvement

- Walsall Early Help 0-19
- Walsall Children’s Social Care (one known)
- Schools
- Walsall Healthcare Trust
- Black Country Integrated Care Board (GPs)
- West Midlands Police (Children’s Services)
- Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (CAMHS)
- Housing – whg and Green Square Accord (none known whg and no returns GSA)
- Street Teams (none known)