



Norfolk Safeguarding  
Children Board

# **Learning from Serious Case Reviews**

## **Case N**

# Serious Case Review: Case N Introduction

- Case N focused on three children, ages 7, 6 and 4, at the time they were taken into care.
- Police used their Public Protection power to remove the children; this was in response to the extremely poor physical state of the property and irrefutable evidence of neglectful parenting.
- Parents subsequently arrested and served custodial sentences for cruelty and neglect.



# Case N:

## Key Features of the case

### Parental history known

- sexual abuse experienced by Mother as a child from within her family; Mother was subsequently subject of a CP plan
- Father had had three children from previous relationship removed from his care due to child protection concerns.

Children had long history of on – off social care involvement



## Case N:

### Key Features of the case, cont.

#### Concerning issues:

- Poor attachment with eldest child
- Presence of Father's Ex-Partner, mother of the children who had been removed
- Domestic abuse
- Hostile towards **some** professionals, notably:
  - Health visitors
  - Psychologist
  - School staff...but **not** police or social workers...



## Case N:

### Key Features of the case, cont.

Eldest child discloses he is locked up in his room and family come to police attention.

Between Mar and Aug 2013 the situation rapidly deteriorated:

- Parents are splitting up and numerous calls made to the police regarding Domestic Abuse
- Allegations about neglect made by one parent against the other.
- 8 police contacts between Jun and Aug.
- There were also two referrals to Children's Services in this time, the second one resulting in the visit that led to the children's removal



## Case N:

### Key Features of the case, cont.

- The children were accommodated under Section 20
- The children did not want to see their parents and soon started making disclosures about sexual abuse
- The Local Authority did not apply for an Interim Care Order which meant the parents retained parental rights
- The parents refused to allow the children to be ABE interviewed or to move schools. This resulted in an extended period where the children were not receiving a suitable education.



# Case N: Neglect and Hostile Parents

## Systemic Learning

- To what extent does poor information sharing impact on professionals' ability to maintain an overview of a neglect case, including an overview of the parents'/family history?
- To what extent do we lose sight of the child when we are dealing with hostile and aggressive parents?



# Case N: Recommendations

## Recommendations around:

- Information sharing
- Better use of chronologies/historical information
- Improved overview of police referrals (C39ds)
- Speaking to children in safe environment
- Consent arrangements around ABE
- Timeliness of initiating care proceedings
- Defining 'good enough' parenting
- Health contributions to strategy discussions & the MASH





# Case N: Discuss



**If you have any questions about  
Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board's  
Serious Case Reviews**

**Please contact us on:**

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