



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership

**Learning from
Serious Case Reviews**

Case AG

Serious Case Review: Case AG

This presentation sets out:

- Summary of the case
- Terms of Reference: key research questions
- Areas of Learning
- Recommendations
- The NSCP's response



Summary of the Case

Timeline of the review from March 2016-September 2018

- AG is the fourth child of a sibling group of six
- Born at 31 weeks' gestation- admitted to SCBU
- Had never been seen by paediatrician following discharge
- Family moved to Norfolk citing neighbour violence
- Mother and five children moved into Woman's Refuge
- Father living nearby in a tent



Summary of the Case, cont.

Initial Child Protection Conference

- Eldest sibling disclosed physical abuse by father
- All children subject to a plan for neglect
- Clear identification of risks and concerns
- Case transferred from SW1-SW2 and back to SW1
- Three different Team Managers



Summary of the Case, cont.

AG's development and weight loss

- Weighed regularly
- Reviewed by paediatricians
- Developmental delay thought to be due to prematurity
- Falling across centiles- faltering growth or organic cause not explored
- Urgency of condition appears to diminish overtime
- Midwife raises alarm about AG describing him as malnourished



Terms of Reference

- Were existing identified risks to AG and her siblings understood and managed at the correct threshold, and in the correct way?
- Was there a shared understanding of the CPP and CIN plan with clear contingency plans for stepping up, stepping down and /or escalation?
- How effective were the multi-agency CIN meetings and was there 'case drift'?
- How was the concerning presentation and overall deterioration in Child AG's welfare understood, in particular: faltering growth, malnutrition, developmental delay, physical injuries and neglect? Were the needs of all the children considered?
- Was the issue of domestic abuse sufficiently explored, including the impact on the children, and were the risks managed appropriately?



Areas of practice learning

- Understanding the risk and impact on the mother and children of the reported domestic abuse
- Learning difficulties and ability to parent
- Neglect and recognising faltering growth
- The weight given to the medical opinion and diagnosis
- Supervision
- Awareness and understanding of Gypsy, Roma-Traveller Community



Recommendations

- The strategic leadership of NSCP should review the effectiveness and ability of all partners to deliver the neglect strategy and identify any barriers that may prevent this.
- NSCP as part of workforce development plan, identify and equip all staff with the confidence and skills to enable them to work with clients from cultural and diverse backgrounds, including the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, and the competency to challenge other professionals in a non- confrontational manner.
- Health agencies to review the effectiveness of the management of faltering growth and how it is shared with all agencies.
- Children's Social Care to provide assurance that Child Protection Plans are realistic and meeting the needs of children that reflect the current position of the risks to the children and are effectively reviewed over time.

NSCP's Response

- Neglect as a priority area in business plan: strategy review, strengthened leadership and independent scrutiny focus
- NSCP Workforce Development Group to incorporate learning into multi-agency training programme
- Health agencies to report on the effectiveness of the management of faltering growth and how it is shared with all agencies.
- Independent Statutory Services complete a Quality Assurance proforma for all Child Protection Plans every month; Children's Services QA Team to undertake analysis of the quality of impact on CP Plans for neglect and report back to NSCP within six months.

Learning Activities

- Consider how your team assesses cumulative risk over time and what steps you can take to improve risk assessments
- Develop ways to communicate effectively with parents where there are concerns about learning difficulties and sense check their understanding of risks identified
- Research working with Gypsy/Roma communities: identify training opportunities and resources to apply learning with these families
- Discuss professional deference and any barriers this presents when working with children with complex or misunderstood health needs
- Ensure your team is up to date with the NSCP neglect strategy, including nominated neglect champions, assessment tools and clear interventions to address drift
- Discuss the emotional impact of neglect on yourselves as individuals and the wider safeguarding system: what helps to maintain professional curiosity?

