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Background: This Serious Case

Review was commissioned in 2017 and published in 2020 due to parallel processes relating to the death. This Serious Case Review concerns the death of a young child from injuries indicative of abusive head trauma/shaking. Child M was one of a twin birth and had three older siblings. The children were not subject of any multi-agency plan at the time of the incident, although a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) had been in place with the family prior to the birth of Child M. In the days

leading up to the death, the police had been called to assist in a domestic incident at the family home.

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Questions?

How can I learn more about this Serious Case Review?

The Child M Serious Case Review Overview Report is available on the RBSCP website (www.rbscp.org)

Learning is also incorporated into the multi-agency safeguarding training programme.

More information at www.rbscp.org

- Practitioners should seek safeguarding supervision appropriately
- Professionals must be highly attuned to the range of indicators that significantly increase risk to children by adults & specifically address whether these apply within any assessment or judgement of risk.

- Professionals must be ever mindful of the behavioural biases that affect judgement & decrease the likelihood of bias by ensuring information & assumptions are validated through a range of sources.

- GPs need to act & be considered as partners in safeguarding for children subject to multi-agency plans.

Why it matters:

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A Serious Case Review takes place when a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is thought to be involved.

The purpose of the Review is to:

- Establish whether there are any lessons to be learnt from the case and from the way in which local professionals and organisations worked together.
- Identify what is expected to change as a result of the learning
- Try to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

Information:

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Key learning and themes:

- Understanding the relationships between the parents and in particular the extent to which stress and anxiety can impact on parenting is significant to reaching confident safeguarding judgements.
- The presence of stress or anxiety coupled with very young babies should be a professional flag to specifically and actively consider the possibility of abusive head trauma.
- Ensure that a 'think family' approach is fully embedded in culture and practice when working with children's fathers/males in families from the perspective of challenge and support
- Practitioners must apply thresholds for seeking safeguarding advice/consultation appropriately and consistently.
- When two or more agencies have a concern about a child, consideration to be given to the need for a multi-agency plan.



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