

7 Point Briefing: Child J: Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service or practice.

Are your staff aware how Adverse Childhood Experiences can impact on a child making them more vulnerable to exploitation?

Outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in line with the recommendations?

Visit our website

www.portsmouthscp.org.uk



WHAT TO DO

Always respond to your professional instincts based upon evidence!

Share important safeguarding information and improve communication between staff and agencies, wherever the placement is in the country

Be effective when providing professional support and overcome barriers. Be child centred even if they are offenders

Identify risk and act on it.

BACKGROUND

Child J is a 17-year-old child who is a Portsmouth Looked After Child and was placed out of area in April 2018. He had a significant history of intervention from various Local Authorities and many involvements with the Police for his violence, drugs and criminality.

He was charged with and convicted of murder. This killing happened amid fears that it was related to Child Criminal Exploitation with major concerns around Child J's involvement with gangs and County Lines and the significant, serious harm he had suffered.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

The review found that the summarised periods of Child J's life highlighted how chaotic and emotionally complex life was for him and showed how difficult and challenging it was for those professionals trying to work with him, in particular his Social Workers and Youth Offending Team workers. There were concerns for the welfare of Child J and the lessons to be learnt to improve experiences for children in similar circumstances in the future. This needs to include the degree to which decisions were child focussed and the effectiveness of working arrangements across agencies and services throughout the country.

WHY WAS THE REVIEW CARRIED OUT?

It was decided that the criteria for a review was met as throughout various periods of Child J's life it appeared that abuse and/or neglect had been suspected and prior to and at the time of the murder he is charged with he was suspected to be a victim of exploitation.

There were concerns around the complex multi-agency working due to Child J being placed and moved away from the area and the very fact that he is accused and convicted of murder is likely to have a significant impact on his emotional well-being and any future opportunities to reach his full potential.

FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Recognise, identify and understand the impact of Adverse Childhood Experience.

Act on reachable moments.

Always complete Missing Return Home interviews. Complete Police protection interviews when found.

Limit School Exclusions.

Placements away from home area.

Expedite Court process for children

Improve individuals National Referral Mechanism knowledge.

Professionals and agencies follow the HIPS Child Exploitation strategy.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Professionals to provide a trauma informed response.

Provide a coordinated and effective multi-agency response to all forms of child exploitation across the HIPS areas.

Consider and identify our collective 'reachable points' in children's lives and circumstances where partnership intervention can be best targeted to have significant impact.

Better understanding of the lived experience of children who have suffered criminal exploitation to inform ongoing work at a strategic and local level.

