



Learning & Improvement Briefing 7

Statement from Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Board

November 2015

A [Serious Case Review](#) published today (19 November 2015) has highlighted the lessons to be learned and concluded that there needs to be more recognition by professionals of the evidence and impact of neglect on children.

Children A and B were already the subject of child protection plans when they moved into Shropshire in 2014. This review concerned the services provided by Shropshire agencies, over a period of six months following their move.

The review found that there were a number of areas of individual good practice, evidence of good joint investigative working and effective partnership working.

The review also identified a number of areas for improvement. These included the awareness of practitioners of neglect, and the importance of maintaining focus on the child's experience when working with a neglectful parent, as well as aspects of practice and procedures.

Sally Halls, the Independent Chair of Shropshire's Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB), said:

"It was my view that the neglect sustained by these children was sufficiently serious to warrant a Serious Case Review.

"The review provided the SSCB with the opportunity to examine how effective professionals in Shropshire are at recognising and responding to non-accidental injuries to children as well as the strength of agency input and involvement in the child protection planning process.

"The serious case review has shown that professionals working with children who are perceived to be at risk of neglect do not identify the same level of immediate risk as with other forms of abuse. There was a loss of focus by workers on the children, leading to a lack of recognition of the neglect that these children were suffering.

"The review has also highlighted some difficulties regarding strategy discussions, planning and concluding child protection investigations, and demonstrated the negative effect that organisational change can have on safeguarding systems.

"I am satisfied that the correct issues have been identified and that appropriate actions are being taken to ensure that the lessons have been learned."

SSCB partners have already undertaken or have actions planned in response to the review's recommendations.

- Developments are underway to establish a multi-agency 'front door' for responding to child safeguarding concerns.
- SSCB will review its Neglect strategy to ensure that there is a co-ordinated and effective response to children at risk of neglect.



- Shropshire's Clinical Commissioning Group is in the process of re-commissioning child protection medicals which will take into account issues raised within the review. Training for GP's focussing on the outcomes of the review has already taken place.
- All partner agencies have been challenged by SSCB to ensure that they engage with children and young people in their work so that the child's lived experience is understood by professionals.

Copies of Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board's Serious Case Review in respect of Children A and B and an Executive Summary can be viewed on the Learning and Improvement page for professionals on the SSCB website. www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk