

7 Minute Briefing- Thematic Review NAI & Neglect

Resources

Safeguarding Partnership Board Website

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Safeguarding Training: Virtual Briefings (Microsoft Sways), Online Training and Training Resources

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

Parenting

Professionals should consider the parental themes from this review when considering assessments and intervention. These themes included

- Three cases involved harm to a child that was significant/life threatening (two resulting from non-accidental injury, one as a result of significant neglect). In all three there were **maternal mental ill health** factors prior to the birth of the babies where no/minimal treatment had been accessed, and a description of a **traumatic birth** in two cases.
- **Isolation** of the mothers in these cases was a factor potentially presenting considerable pressures on them as new parents. When combined with factors such as previous mental health difficulties (Child A & D), traumatic birth (Child A & D) and inconsolable crying baby (Child A) combinations of these factors need to be considered by professionals within their assessments and regarded as a high level of **potential risk** to a child.
- Professionals should consider the involvement of **fathers** in the child's life and record information about fathers on the child's records.

<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/2022/01/05/icon-support-for-new-parents/>

Baby Bruising Protocol

Good practice was identified from the GP seeking advice from the safeguarding lead paediatrician who advised that, in line with the Bruising in Pre-mobile Babies Protocol, a referral must be made to Children's Social Care (CSC). However, it is important that referrals are made as soon as possible to ensure that the child is safe from harm.

[Bruising In Pre-Mobile Babies: A Protocol for Assessment, Management And Referral By Professionals | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)



Where a parent has adverse childhood experiences and moderate learning difficulties professionals should be **curious** about their real understanding of becoming a new mother or father and what this entails. The author deemed that in child D's case the mother had overly optimistic and naïve ideas about becoming a mother. These views needed to be understood, checked out and challenged with a supportive explanation from professionals.

Background

Cambridge and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board were notified of four separate significant incidents involving four babies, from different families, whose ages ranged between seven to ten weeks. Four separate Rapid Reviews took place in short succession where similar themes emerged about multi-agency service provision. It was concluded that one case (Child D) met the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR), and the remaining three cases should also be considered as part of this CSPR.

Pre-Birth Protocol

Professionals should consider utilising the **pre-birth protocol** where there are known parental vulnerabilities such as adverse childhood experiences, learning difficulties, uncertain family support and mental health issues (e.g depression/ anxiety) to support a safeguarding referral to children's services. [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Pre-Birth Protocol | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#). Where there are parental vulnerabilities such as childhood adversities professionals should be **curious** to find out what these mean for the parent and how these may **impact** on their parenting and ability to safeguard the child.

Referrals + Strategy Meetings

- Findings from this review show that when there is evidence of an extensive history of social care involvement with a new mother throughout their childhood an assessment should be considered under the **pre-birth protocol**.
- When referrals are made **equal consideration** should be given to the safeguarding concerns expressed by family members as compared to professional's safeguarding concerns.
- It is important to ensure that all the relevant representatives are invited to and attend **strategy meetings**. This includes the right health representation.

www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk