

GP involvement in Child Protection Conferences

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Statutory Duties

- **GMC – Protecting Children and Young People – The Responsibilities of all GPs (2012)**
 - P.20 – Participating in Child Protection Procedures
 - P.28 – Responding for requests for information

You should consider all requests for information for child protection purposes seriously and quickly, bearing in mind that refusing to give this information, or a delay in doing so, could increase the risk of harm to a child or young person or undermine efforts to protect them. (p.28)



Statutory Duties

- **SET Procedures**

- Part A – 4.1 – Child Protection Conferences
- Part B – 2.12.1 0 General Responsibilities of Health Care services

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)**

Both of these documents underpin Children Act 2004 Section 11 which places duties for safeguarding children on specific agencies incl. NHS organisations, NHS England, Clinical and Commissioning groups, NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts

Serious Case Review – Baby J

- **Criticism of Child Protection Procedures**
 - No invite to GP
 - No minutes sent to GP
 - No awareness of risks

The Grid.....

What are we worried about now?		WHATS WORKING WELL	GREY AREAS COMPLICATING FACTORS	What needs to change? THE PLAN
CONCERNS	IMPACT ON THE CHILD/REN			

Child Protection Conferences

- Sharing information:
 - What are we worried about?
 - What is going well?
 - Grey / Complicating Factors
 - What needs to happen – the plan?
- Review Conference – Reviewing the last plan.
- The Safety Scale 0 – 10 (How safe is the child?)
- Making a PLAN (a collaborative plan between multi-agencies and the family).
 - Be able to say what will make the child safer
 - Say what your agency will do to contribute to the child being safer.
 - Contribute to professional discussion on safety arrangements
- Make a recommendation: Child In Need or Child Protection.
- Be prepared to ask questions and be questioned.
- Explore professional hypothesis



The Report.....

- If you are unable to attend the conference a report should be sent 48 hours prior.
- There is a specific form using the Strength Based Approach format
- You can find it on the ESCB website:-

www.escb.co.uk

On the front page you will see a link to Child Protection Conference Form

The Report.....

- **Overview of involvement**

- Number and frequency of visits including DNAs
- General health issues which may be relevant

- **What are we worried about?**

(Adults or Young People)

- Drug use – type/ frequency etc
- Mental Health – any diagnoses, medication (with explanation)
- Domestic Abuse (actual or suspected)
- Previous children – any issues
- General observations which have caused worry
- Any other relevant issues i.e STI



The Report.....

- **Children/Babies**
 - Any concerning health issues (referral!!)
 - Any on-going health needs (i.e asthma)
 - Patterns of reoccurring issues (i.e colds, coughs, diarrhoea, UTI)
 - Any injuries and help sought
 - Was attention sought in a timely manner?
 - Any observations of the child and parent/s



The Report.....

- **Historical Concerns**

- You may have known the family the longest of all professionals!
- Generational issues (i.e sexual abuse?)
- Previous drug use, mental health issues, domestic abuse

- **What's working well?**

- Seeing you as directed, following medication regime
- Engaging with services



The Report.....

- **What would reduce our concerns?**
- **Grey Areas**
 - We are not sure if mum is in a new relationship; mum had bruising
 - We saw mum with another patient who is known to us for heroin use
- **What's the likely outcome for the children if their current situation continues?**
- **What areas of risk or concern can your agency help the parent/carer resolve?**



The Report.....

- There is an expectation on agencies to share the report with parents.
- We appreciate that this is not realistic for you but is obviously best practice



Attendance

- **At the end of the day, if you made the referral, there is suspicion of fabricated illness or you hold a lot of information on the family, coming to the conference would be the best way to work together to safeguard the child/ren.**



Any Questions....?

- **ESCB Training on Strengths Based Approach to Child Protection Conferences. Workshops across Essex, see ESCB website.**
- **ESCB Core Group Training. Half day training. See ESCB website.**
- **Speak with the Child Protection Coordinator (Chair) before a meeting if you have any questions/anxieties:**

If you would like to come and observe a conference we can make arrangements.

