



WG S54 2019 CPR

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING IN REVIEW

The Extended Child Practice Review was triggered following a significant Missing Persons (MISPER) episode, of five days duration, during which time it was alleged that A had been subject of both sexual and criminal exploitation.

BACKGROUND

- A, at fourteen years of age, moved placement on average every two weeks – 12 times in 14 weeks) she ‘sought the emotional support and security she desperately needed and wanted from her mother’.
- In April 2019, A went missing for five days. She was found by police in a Caravan in West Wales with two males and was taken to a place of safety.

IMPROVING SYSTEMS & PRACTICE

- Review current approach to ABE, including use of Child Witness booklets.
- Joint protocols for sharing information between child and adult services.
- Align, absorb and accommodate EFHR into existing pathways or revise.
- Ensure Professional concerns (S5) responded to consistently.
- Develop and publish practice guides to support practice in the digital space.

LEARNING

- Multiple **placement changes** and difficulties **matching** teenagers.
- Plans made for A did not capture the **voice of the child** and were not effective.
- Those working with A were not prepared for missing persons episodes with few aware of the **Child Information Form (CIF)**.

IMPROVING SYSTEMS & PRACTICE

- Review matching process for foster placements.
- Develop practice guidance on recording.
- Formalise frequency of assessment of CLA.
- Raise profile of CIF.
- Define therapy and what it may entail.
- Adopt a common approach across practice

LEARNING

- **Responding to Harm outside the family home** is confusing and unsupported by existing legislation, practice, procedures and processes.
- The impact of **Social Media** not fully factored into decision-making or planning.

LEARNING

- Delay in A getting **therapy** and what therapy meant, or means in practice.
- **Achieving Best Evidence (ABE)** process driven by police.
- Blind-spot in Children and Adult Services IT System, impacted on **communication** between departments: Child and Adult.
- **Professional Strategy meeting** not held and Report not followed up by report-maker.

