



7 Minute Briefing Child Practice Review CPR 04/2019

Practice Improvements from early learning

Wales Applied Risk Research Network (WARRN) risk assessments are now being shared for concerns about young people who are known to both Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Children's Services. Children Services have changed their referral forms to focus more on the child's lived experience.

The residential therapeutic care home no longer accept a placement of a young person without the full information surrounding the young person's circumstances or close to their sixteenth birthday, due to transfer of education. Where a child is now transitioned to an out of county placement, Children Services have introduced a 'Brighter Futures' panel.

Welsh Government recently consulted on 'Transition and Handover Guidance' which includes a young person Passport'. This will allow the young person to transition between agencies or to a new placement without the need to constantly re-tell their story.

Background

An Extended Child Practice Review was commissioned by Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Board (C&VRSB) in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 guidance for Multi Agency Child Practice Reviews.

The subject of the review was a young person who died following being found hanging in the bedroom of her residential placement three months after she was placed out of county as a child looked after.

The 7 Minute briefing will summarise the key learning points from this review.

Context

The young person was aged 16 at the time of their death. Some three months prior they had been placed into the care of the local authority and into an out of county residential therapeutic care home.

This young person had difficulty in managing emotional regulation from a young age and was receiving professional support. This was in part due to adverse childhood experiences and developmental trauma experienced within the family unit

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood; such as experiencing or witnessing violence, abuse or neglect in the home or aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding.

Recommendations continued

Voice of the child
All agencies to ensure that a child, young person and their families are listened to and are able to fully engage in the care planning process.

Adverse childhood experiences
All agencies to fully understand the relevance of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed approaches.

Recommendations for improving systems and Practice

The review made recommendations related to the key areas of organisational learning. These are set out as follows:

Multi Agency working Chronology
Where a placement is being sourced for a child looked after a shared multi agency chronology should be in place, which is shared with proposed placements to ensure appropriate placement are made that can meet the child or young person's needs.

Transfer of services and care arrangements
Effective planning and sharing of information should be facilitated to aid the transition of a child or young person into an out of county placement. There should be no disruption to existing services and no discharge of responsibility should occur until a seamless transition has taken place.

Organisational Learning

The following key areas of organisational learning were identified within the review:

- Multi agency working
- Information Sharing
- Transition between local Authority Areas
- Quality and Accuracy of information
- Person and family centred approach
- The voice of the child or young person
- A child or young person not having to re tell their story

