



city & hackney
safeguarding
children board

CHSCB Case Audits

Hackney

2014/15

The CHSCB multi-agency case auditing has identified numerous examples of positive safeguarding practice being undertaken by the partnership. Lessons have also been identified that have led to tangible improvements.

Systematic auditing allows the CHSCB to deliver one of the best learning opportunities for front-line workers; directly engaging them in a process that reflects upon, assesses and measures the quality of professional practice. The CHSCB continues to operate a consistent and regular 6 monthly multi-agency case file audit process, which is carried out across the City of London and Hackney. Two rounds of multi-agency audits were carried out in Hackney during 2014/15 with cases focussing on child protection enquiries and looked after children.

Neglect / Parental Mental Health

Strengths

- There was evidence of **engagement with fathers** and wider family network.
- Multi-agency meetings were well attended with examples of **good information sharing**.
- There was evidence of the use of the **Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework** and comprehensive referrals being made
- Use of **joint mental health protocol** between Hackney CYPS and ELFT was evident.
- There was evidence of **concerns being escalated** by front-line practitioners
- **Agencies working over and above** their service provision to support the child.

Lessons

Early Help

In one case, the audit identified the need for robust identification of families, known to services, where a coordinated early help plan and targeted support could pre-empt referral to statutory agencies.

Make sure you are familiar with the Hackney Wellbeing Framework.

Low Mood

The audit identified the need for increased awareness of 'low mood' and potential low-level neglect.

Be alert to indicators of low mood and neglect. Attend CHSCB training regarding parental mental health to learn more.

Information Sharing

There were examples of good information sharing, although on some occasions this could have been better.

Familiarise yourself with Information Sharing guidance. If you care, share!

Planning and discharge meetings

The audits reinforced the need for long-term planning and discharge meetings to clarify ongoing support and contingency planning.

Follow the Joint Mental Health Protocol and engage with mental health staff as appropriate to utilise their expertise.

Escalation of concerns

The audits reinforced the importance of escalating concerns especially in differences in opinion with regards to care planning.

See the CHSCB Escalation Policy

Early Help

Strengths

- The cases audited evidenced that the **Multi-Agency Team process is effectively coordinating support** for children and families
- There was evidence that practitioners from a range of agencies sustained **positive working relationships** with families
- The **voice of the child** was clearly captured within statutory assessments and step-down plans
- There were clear examples of **early help and evidence based interventions** being used with families.
- Positive examples were seen of practitioners working with and **understanding parenting in the context of different cultures.**
- There was evidence of **concerns being escalated** when risks were perceived to have escalated

Lessons

The following areas detail the emerging findings from the audits. Given the timing of the audit, additional lessons and actions are being taken forward in 2015/16

Information sharing

The audits identified some examples where information sharing could have been better between engaged agencies, including the knowledge of the named lead professional. The CHSCB continues to promote the importance of information sharing through its communications and training.

Familiarise yourself with information sharing guidance. Speak to your manager if unsure.

Ensuring engagement with fathers

The audits identified the need to ensure fathers were actively engaged in early help processes. This well established finding will be further communicated by the CHSCB and reviewed in terms of CHSCB training content.

Be alert to and consider fathers and other adults and their role in the care of children and young people you are working with.