

## 1. Background

In December 2019, the Learning From Practice sub-group commissioned a multi-agency audit to enquire into the effectiveness of decision making and thresholds for intervention within child protection conferences.

## 2. Methodology

The agreed methodology was to review up to 100 cases, which would represent 10 per cent of children on child protection plans within the terms of reference criteria.

## 3 Key Lines of Enquiry

- Early Help Assessments
- Clarity re: the reason for the referral
- Child and Young Person Participation
- The effectiveness of planning and monitoring
- Impact and improved outcomes for the child
- Professional agreement and decision-making
- Partnership working post conference.

## 7. Recommendations

- Increase professional network's confidence to challenge ineffective CP processes
- SMART, multi-agency, CP Plans that captures change and objectives achieved when reviewed
- Robust evidence of sustained parental change before stepping down to CIN
- Recording processes and standards to improve so a child's story is clear across agency involvement
- Professional dissent at conferences must be recorded and acted upon appropriately

## 6. Recommendations

- Sharing of all professional's reports with parents prior to conference
- Engagement with Fathers seen as a multi-agency priority
- A standardised approach to how child/ren are listened to and involved as part of the conference
- Understanding the reasons why we proceed if not quorate
- Conference and core group processes must have the key professionals.

## 5. Secondary Findings

- The quality recording impacts our ability to fully evaluate the service a child/ren receive
- The presence of Fathers is often absent
- The effectiveness of Core Group Meetings
- Professional escalations to improve around drift and delay
- Quoracy

## 4. Findings

- Most cases did not have a completed Early Help Assessment
- The Reason for Referral was clear in the majority of cases
- There was evidence of historical involvement in the majority of cases
- CP Conference Reports were shared in a timely way in two thirds of cases
- Planning was linked to presenting needs in 90% of the cases reviewed
- The progress of the plan was monitored in 55% of cases
- There was professional agreement in 60% of cases
- There was evidence of effective partnership working in 78% of the cases

