

LEARNING THE LESSONS – April 2018

SALR16B: Single Agency Learning Review

A Single Agency Learning Review was commissioned by Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board to consider the case of a teenager who demonstrated challenging and complex behaviours and there were difficulties around finding local and national secure accommodation to suit his needs. He was later diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and placed with a bespoke specialist team who could provide appropriate care and support.

The full report is not for publication however, it is important the Local Authority staff and partner agencies are aware of the lessons learned as below.

This briefing is to disseminate the learning for multiagency staff to promote better outcomes for children in the future.

Lessons Learnt

1) Information sharing processes between Primary and Secondary School in relation to transition need to be robust particularly for children with challenging behaviour who may find the environment of secondary school difficult to cope with.

There is a need to ensure that sufficient consideration has been given around transfer plans and records especially for those children who have or may have additional educational needs. It is anticipated that the new SEND reform will be able to address this much more effectively.

2) All staff working with children need to have a good understanding of the Derby City and Derbyshire Threshold document and Escalation Policy in terms of knowing when to “step up” levels of concern for a child protection assessment and knowing how to escalate concern when there is a difference of opinion.

3) There needs to be a clearer pathway of interaction and involvement from services, specifically Local Authority and CAMHS Tier 4 to provide closer working and better understanding of roles and responsibilities. The future in minds work being led by the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group is starting to improve communication and more joined up working.

4) It is vital that family members are kept informed and are part of the decision making process when children are being moved from service and area to another.

Children and their families prefer to receive care in Derbyshire where it is possible to prevent separation and distress.