

LEARNING THE LESSONS – April 2018

SALR16a: Single Agency Learning Review (HEALTH)

A Single Agency Learning Review was commissioned by Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board following the discovery that a baby had been born to a mother where previous children had been removed because of sexual abuse. The mother and baby avoided detection whilst in plain sight of the health staff who were working with them for 10 months before concerns were raised by a member of the general public.

The full report is not for publication however, it is important that health staff and partner agencies are aware of the lessons learned as below.

This briefing is to disseminate the learning for health and multiagency staff to better protect children in the future.

LESSONS LEARNED

1) Professional curiosity particularly when children are said to be not living with or not in contact with one of the birth parents.

All Health Visitors and Midwives need to ensure that all children in the family are linked at the antenatal visit and need to specifically record information about who the children in the family are, where all children of the family are living, contact arrangements – and why children are living away from their birth parents

2) Information sharing and flagging safeguarding concerns.

Pathways are being developed so that when an adult is deemed by the court to be unsafe to care for a child the GP is notified and asked to flag their record. The flag is to ensure that if health professionals become aware that the adult has caring responsibility for a child (including pregnancy), a referral is made to children's social care to enable a risk assessment to be undertaken.