



Ref no: BSCP 2021/22-01

## **Publication of a Local Safeguarding Practice Review – ‘Out of Sight’**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Today we are publishing a Local Safeguarding Practice Review concerning children who experienced repeated extreme corporal punishment and physical assault within the home. Whilst injuries to the children did not leave lasting physical impairments, the trauma and emotional impact has and is likely to continue to impact upon the children.

Both parents were convicted of assault, ill-treatment, neglect, and child abandonment.

There was significant learning from this review, including the importance of supporting practitioners to be authoritative and never lose sight of a child’s lived experience, whilst being respectful of adults’ culture and beliefs. The review also reinforced the value of effective, collaborative working including medical assessment and multi- agency decision making based on shared information, in respect of Child Protection or Child in Need Planning.

Two national issues have been highlighted, that we have raised in previous reviews. These were the lack of statutory requirement for registration and inspection of tuition centres; and the need to strengthen Local Authorities’ responsibility and investigative powers to safeguard children in Elective Home Education. In this case, the eldest child at the heart of the review felt they lost their only source of protection (school) when becoming home educated, four years before the disclosure of abuse brought the perpetrators to justice.

This review also highlights good practice from all agencies when the disclosure of serious abuse was made and the children were protected, reflecting improvements in Safeguarding. However, we are not complacent and recognise the need to continue to work with all communities in Birmingham to promote and ensure good enough parenting practice.

**ENDS**

### **Note to editors**

The purpose of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is to establish whether any lessons can be learnt by professional services to help ensure children are better protected in future.

The LCSPR is published on the Partnership’s website (<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk>). A copy can be downloaded from the table on the webpage (Case Reference BSCP 2021-22-01). A copy has been forwarded to the National Case Review Repository hosted by the NSPCC.



If you are concerned about a child living in Birmingham, please ring Birmingham Children's Trust's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888.

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