MSCB Briefing

Malcolm Ward and Carla Thomas
SCRs
The Headlines

Daniel Pelka
Aged 4 ½ yrs

There needed to have been a greater focus on his day to day experiences…

None of the assessments carried out by children’s social care used any tools to assist practitioners in this task. It is widely accepted as good practice that evidence based tools should be used to inform complex assessments.
The Headlines

Practitioners may come to tolerate neglectful behaviour in materially deprived communities and households...

the lack of consensus about what constitutes neglect...

process of normalisation has an impact on how professionals frame or categorise information and understand its significance and relevance

Hamzah Khan aged 4 yrs
Absence of reasonable judgment when making decisions....
Lack of involvement by agencies in the multi-agency process of analysis

Keanu Williams
Aged 3yrs
Child Sexual Exploitation
## Serious Case Reviews

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<td>1 - 5 yrs</td>
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Themes from SCRs - The Child

• Child missed

• Invisible child

• Scholl attendance /Home education

• Safeguarding responses to teenagers

• Hard to help

• Neglect
Themes from SCRs - The Family/Parent/Carer

• Chaotic families with low expectations
• Unsupported families
• Multiple parental problems (toxic trio)
• Assessment of men in the family
• Neglect
• Hostile and resistant families
• Reunification of children to their parents
• Criminality
Themes from SCRs – Agencies/Professional Practice

• No in depth assessment or analysis
• Too much emphasis on supporting the parent
• Difficulties in focusing on the needs of the individual child
• Insufficient recognition of the presenting risk factors
• Rule of optimism
• Reluctance to make negative comments about the parents
• No purposeful or planned interventions designed to improve outcomes
Themes from SCRs – Agencies/Professional Practice

- Use of Strategy discussions
- Assessment of neglect
- Supervision which challenges practitioners to reflect on practice
- Threshold disputes
- Lack of use of evidence based assessment tools
- Ability of professional to recognise abuse and comply with child protection procedures and guidance
- Initial and new birth assessments
- Lack of recognition of the impact of domestic abuse (including during pregnancy)
It is apparent that for much of the time and in spite of the services and people involved, most people felt overwhelmed by the complexity and range of problems and need presented by this family.