



## LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN – GN13

### SUMMARY:

This review related to a 22 month old child who suffered a serious physical injury and abuse a few weeks after moving into Nottinghamshire from another area. Two people were convicted - one for sexual assault and one for neglect. The review has now been published.

### KEY LEARNING:

1. The need to strengthen core group working and to produce robust detailed child protection plans in order to be able to challenge behaviour when families are resistant to working with professionals. The need to maintain the focus and momentum of core group working even when key staff are absent.
2. The importance of recognising and assessing domestic abuse and its impact upon children.
3. The importance of recognising the role of fathers and other significant adults after separation. Absent fathers need to be included in assessments and appropriate contact arrangements need to be put in place.
4. The importance of recognising the circumstances in which the rule of optimism can develop, including from first impressions. Professionals need to develop an appropriate mind-set based on reflection and analysis.
5. The need to ensure that the transfer in of a child subject to a child protection plan is subject to an assessment including the child's new circumstances, rather than an over reliance on historical information.

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

The revised NSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures include a specific Safeguarding Guide on effective core group working and a Learning and Improvement Bulletin will follow in due course.

The NSCB multi-agency practice guidance relating to domestic abuse is currently being revised and will be re-launched in November 2014. The guidance will address the importance of recognising and assessing domestic abuse and its impact upon children. It will also highlight the importance of assessing relationships and contact arrangements with absent parents or carers post separation.

The NSCB Learning and Development subgroup will be considering how cognitive influence and human bias can be incorporated into core multi-agency training.

The learning from the review continues to be disseminated via multi-agency briefings and presentations.

### MORE INFORMATION:

[http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/guides/p\\_good\\_pract\\_core\\_gps.html](http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/guides/p_good_pract_core_gps.html)