

## **Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment and the Child's Voice - Learning Outcomes**

This audit is of how the multi-agency network understands the child's lived experience and hears the child's voice with a specific focus on children who may have experienced intra-familial sexual harm.

Auditors from Enfield's Children's Social Care; Community Health, the Integrated Care Board (for GPs); the Metropolitan police, Enfield Children's Safeguarding Partnership manager and the Independent Reviewer were a part of this audit. 10 cases were audited.

The initial cohort included 10 cases, 5 of each of the following:

- 5 children that had been referred to the MASH and the immediate safeguarding response;
- 5 children that had been subject to Child in Need or Child Protection at the point of case selection in August 2023.

It should be noted that there was some overlap in the cohorts – where there was ongoing intervention after the referral to MASH, this was subject to audit. In addition, 2 cases from this sample were deemed to be 'null' as the case did not meet the criteria set out in the terms of reference.

Of the 8 cases audited:

- 5 cases were MASH referrals and onwards: 2 were outstanding; 1 was 'good' with outstanding features; 1 was 'inadequate' and 1 'requires improvement'.
- 3 cases were CIN and CP cases, 1 was 'good' and 2 cases 'required improvement'.

### **Key learning points**

1. When referring to specialist services such as the Lighthouse, practitioners should consider what intervention they are requesting.
2. s47 strategy meetings should have participation from all relevant agencies particularly early years and education settings.
3. Practitioners should engage in relevant training available to them relating to culture, ethnicity, gender, disability, and religious beliefs.
4. That any practitioner seeking information from a GP should include in their request the context and specifics of the concerns.
5. That police officers who bailed adults suspected of violent or sexual offences should consider the risks to children and the vulnerability of adults in the address. It is not acceptable that a family move out to accommodate an adult on bail.