

Sense check audit on physical abuse - Learning Outcomes

An initial multi- agency audit was completed at the end of 2022 which could not assure the partnership of an effective partnership response to concerns of physical abuse. The learning points from the first audit were specifically looked at within the sense check audit in January 2024.

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. 8 family cases where the children were suspected to be at risk of physical abuse were audited.

Key learning points

1. Being curious about a family and trying to understand the context they live in and the cultural beliefs that underpin their behaviours is essential when working with families where children may be at risk of harm.
2. It is vital that the child's voice and experience is understood across their lives so that cumulative harm is understood and responded to.
3. Regular discussions can support multi-agency relationships so that practitioners can reflect on practice challenges. For example, the fear of being complained about, how to maintain persistence and the importance of time and space to challenge thinking.
4. When strategy meetings are completed and it has been agreed that a CPME should be completed, a referral for a CPME should be made immediately.
5. Appropriate escalation and resolution protocols should be applied to challenge any multi- agency practice [Escalation-protocol-updated-2024.pdf \(enfield.gov.uk\)](#).

Please note that the multi- agency threshold document has been updated to reflect PAN London. Please review here [Threshold \(londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk\)](#).