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Background

Child G was a 6 year old child who was diagnosed as in receipt of a serious and potentially life threatening non-accidental injury;

Although Child G was not known to Oldham Children's Services at the time of the incident, previous referrals had been made which indicated prior concerns about physical abuse;

The mother of Child G had extensive contacts with the police, frequently related to incidents of domestic violence involving a series of partners.

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Implementing Change

Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice

Outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in your area.

Recommendations

To develop a culture of challenge to CSC.
To ensure that practitioners work with all members of the family including men.
GP's are connected to safeguarding and think Safeguarding.
CSC understand and apply the threshold for S.47.
LSCB to do an audit regarding the child's voice to ensure it is embedded in practice.

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Safeguarding Concerns

- In relation to hearing the child's voice and thresholds for section 47.
- About serious injuries being presented and the response from children's social care.
- That some injuries were treated as medical rather than safeguarding.
- That partner agencies did not escalate when they were not happy with the response.

The Incident 03

Child G had been taken to school late on the date of the serious incident by mum's partner; Child G began to complain of stomach pain & started vomiting. School contacted mum and her partner collected Child G from school. Later that afternoon mum took Child G to the GP. Child G was transferred and admitted to hospital. The Consultant Paediatrician made a referral to Children's Social Care. Children's Social Care did not agree to a Strategy meeting because no disclosure had been made that day by Child G.

The Review

A Serious Case Review was held, the aim of which was to 'identify any lessons to be learn that could improve practice and systems.

The review made recommendations to the LSCB to be shared with staff and an action plan was developed.



The Findings

The child's voice was not heard.

Children's Social Care did not do a section 47 Children Act 1989 when the threshold had been met.

Children's Social Care thought that a disclosure from a child had to be made to undertake a strategy meeting.

Schools did not escalate even though they did not agree with the outcome of the contact with children's social care.

Historical factors were not taken into account.

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