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## Background

Child K was known to services since pre-birth under the category of neglect.

They were placed with grandparents and subsequently experienced inter-familial sexual abuse alongside the impact of chronic trauma.

At the age of 11 they were considered to be a high risk of CSE and had experienced four placement moves before being placed in secure accommodation.

## Safeguarding Concerns

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- Known to services since pre-birth
- Known history of chronic neglect
- Disclosure of inter-familial sexual abuse at a young age
- Early indications of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Impact of early childhood trauma
- Considered high risk of exploitation

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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

- Develop Neglect strategy and training to enhance confidence in the management of neglect and its consequences
- Senior leaders to review decision making and accountability to drive joint ownership of safeguarding decisions
- Placement provision for traumatised children should be needs led
- Assessments are informed by all agencies that are involved with complex families and include chronologies
- Workers hear the messages that are given by children in their words and behaviours
- Supervision and management oversight is attentive to the emotional workload of staff

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## The Incident

Through a process of multi-agency audit the lived experience of this child indicated a series of missed opportunities by professionals to intervene at the earliest opportunity.

## The Review

A serious case review was commissioned to examine:

- The extent to which agencies manage the allegation of familial sexual abuse in the context of neglect and the emergence of subsequent risk of CSE.

# Child K

## The Findings

- The voice of the child was not heard
- Missed opportunities to intervene earlier to protect Child K
- Assessment and analysis did not take account of the child and family history
- Working together is enhanced by professional challenge

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