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Background

Child L is a child looked after by the LA, who perpetrated a serious criminal offence causing significant physical harm to another young person.

Before entering the care system Child L had experienced childhood trauma.

Their long-term foster placement broke down 18 months prior to the incident, following which Child L experienced six different placements in a short period of time.

Safeguarding Concerns

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- Unstable placement
- Increase in missing from home incidents
- Disengagement from professionals and education
- Alcohol misuse
- Witnessing violent incidents
- Association with high risk peer group
- High risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

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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

- Identification of evidence-based engagement strategies
- Ensure single assessments are undertaken in line with policy timescales
- Improve information sharing with partners with regards placement moves
- Practitioners to adhere to Greater Manchester policy and procedure
- Review the effectiveness of Missing from Home processes
- Improve practitioner knowledge relating to trauma and attachment
- Safeguarding Partnership to explore contextual safeguarding approaches linked to offending

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The Incident

Child L committed a serious violent offence against another young person and was convicted of Section 20 wounding.

The Review

A serious case review was commissioned to:

- Identify and examine the extent to which issues of vulnerability and risk were assessed and managed, in the context of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), being a Looked After Child, offending risk, and previous life trauma

Child L

The Findings

- Balance the need to listen and engage with child against need to protect from harm
- Absence of an up to date single assessment resulted in no joined-up assessment or plan
- Understanding and development of contextual safeguarding approach
- Understand the risk factors that increase the likelihood of offending in young people

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