

# 01 Background

Child M was born in the UK to parents of South East Asian heritage, for whom English is a second language.

He is one of the younger children of a sibling group who were parented by their mother since the early death of their father when Child M was 5 years old.

# Safeguarding Concerns 02

Aged 12 years old, Child M became the subject to a Child Protection Plan for seven months due to concerns that Child M and siblings were regularly missing from home until the early hours of the morning and associating with a person who was believed to be a risk to children.

Professionals were concerned that the children were at risk of grooming in relation to sexual exploitation or criminality coupled with a lack of parental boundaries and low levels of supervision.

Child M's behaviour whilst at school became increasingly anti-social and at times aggressive towards peers. Child M was involved in a series of violent assaults on adults within the community.

# 07 Implementing Change

A practitioner learning event will be arranged once normal working conditions resume.

In the mean time professionals should read the case review and Disseminate the learning throughout their organisations.

# 03

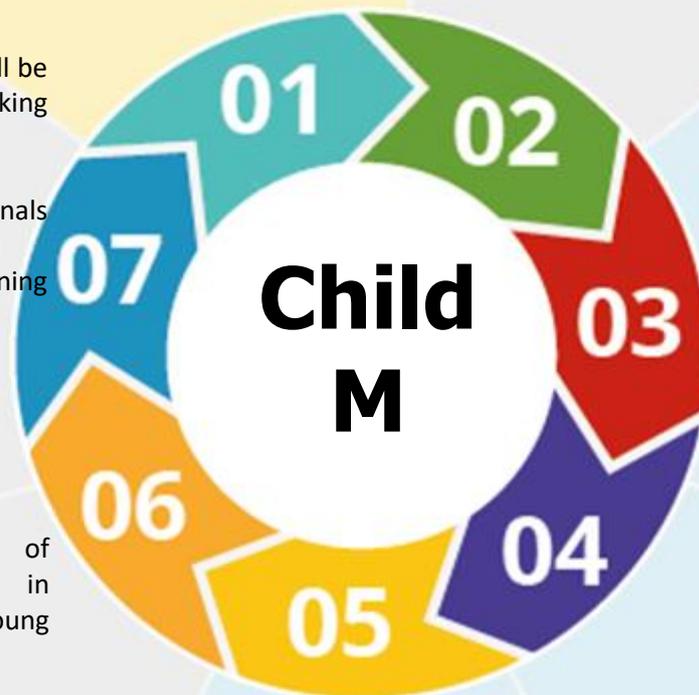
## The Incident

Child M was convicted of Section 18 Assault, Causing Grievous Bodily Harm with the Intent to Cause Grievous Bodily Harm and received a custodial sentence of six years.

## Recommendations

- Promote the principles of trauma-informed practice in working with complex young people.
- Develop an engagement strategy which guides practitioners to establish the parents' understanding of concerns, taking into account their unique characteristics such as language and cognitive functioning.
- Reinforce across all agencies that children who display criminal behaviour should be viewed as children at risk of harm as well as children who pose risk of harm

- Invest time in the development of critical thinking skills



## The Findings

- Vehicles to support multi-agency working were poorly organised and attended with no shared outcomes or updates to the child protection plan.
- The attempts to work with mum were short-lived, and the potential barriers to engagement were not explicitly explored through the period of child protection planning or at subsequent points of intervention.
- Throughout the Child Protection Conferences there is reference to the child's views being unknown - this is a significant omission to the process of a planning for his safety.
- Child M's behaviour was spiralling out of control, but this was interpreted solely as a criminal issue that required a response as an offender rather than a welfare issue that demonstrated that he was a child in need.

## The Review

The rationale to progress to series case review for Child M was based on a view that:

- there was clear evidence of significant harm that was not recognised by organisations or individuals in contact with the child, not shared with others or not acted on appropriately.
- there might be indications of failings in one or more aspects of the local operation of formal safeguarding children procedures, which go beyond the handling of the specific case.
- the child was the subject of a child protection plan or had previously been the subject of a plan or on the child protection register.

# 04