

Domestic Abuse

Background:

In August 2022 a deep dive audit was undertaken to look at the multi-agency response to 7 children for whom there were concerns about domestic abuse using a deep dive method. This included looking at 2 children who were in receipt of early help, 2 children who had Child in Need Plans and 3 children who had Child Protection Plans.

Good Practice

- There is some evidence that the changes to agency representation in the MASH is supporting the process of completing lateral checks with partner agencies at initial screening and decision making
- Education showed strong practice in escalating concerns as well as sharing information with sibling's schools in relation to Operation Encompass

The audit findings remind us to:

- Check whether the family is known to MARAC and the outcome of discussions
- Remember that children living with domestic abuse are victims in their own right
- Share specialist risk assessments when making a referral to MASH
- Remember that trauma will impact on the way family members respond
- Consider the extent to which controlling and coercive behaviours are impacting on the family dynamics
- Consider cumulative risks and the coexistence of other issues i.e. substance misuse, mental health, poverty etc.
- Focus on the source of the harm and do not hold the non-abusing parent responsible for managing the behaviours of the abuser
- Think about the 4 practice principles: DA-informed, Trauma-informed, Intersectional and Whole Family

