

# Child in Need (stepped down from Child Protection)

In June 2024, a multi-agency audit around the theme of Child in Need was undertaken specifically looking at those children who had recently been stepped down to a Child in Need Plan from a Child Protection Plan. The audit involved key partner agencies from across the partnership. The audit group considered 6 children and young people as part of this audit between the ages of 7 and 14.

## Good Practice

- There were some aspects of positive practice in relation to the Voice of the Child with some children within this cohort being seen alone and on their terms.
- There was evidence of good information sharing between primary schools and secondary schools.
- For one child in particular, the step down and Child in Need process was extremely positive with the child's wellbeing the priority throughout.

## The audit findings remind us to:

- Give careful consideration when closing Child in Need plans to ensure the decision to close is multi-agency, all relevant agencies are aware of the decision to close, and the closure is not happening too early with little to no consideration or offer of Early Help.
- Ensure professionals are using a holistic think family approach which includes the consideration of fathers, and the impact of parental mental health and other vulnerabilities on the Child's lived experience.
- Be professionally curious and ensure we are exploring what is happening in someone's life instead of accepting what we are told at face value.

