

The GSCB Child Protection audit has led to the following Top 5 Tips for Practice

Core Groups - Good communication includes taking stock and thinking ahead. Are you considering great **tools like MOMO** (an app that children and young people engage really well with) to involve the child at each key point? Think ahead if the child will be starting a new school, **contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead before** the summer holiday to inform them of concerns. **Keep taking stock of your Core Group membership** at each meeting if there are lots of agencies are involved, this needs to be kept constantly under review. Not doing so can lead to a false sense of security, layering or duplication of services without clarity of impact, or key practitioners inadvertently being left out.



All partners - Whether part of a Core Group or a Strategic Lead - raise awareness about or take part in the **GSCB Child Protection Reflective Learning Circle** which is hosted by the GSCB and chaired by the Head of Quality. Its purpose is to support reflective practice to safeguard children in complex, stuck or 'repeat' cases. The Core Group provide a brief written reflection beforehand about the child's circumstances, views from the core group about effectiveness and barriers to effecting sustainable change, and a multi agency panel joins them to reflect on specific issues that the group invite the panel to assist with.



Practitioners – remember to suggest a **professionals meetings** if you think things are getting stuck. Where professionals were able to have professionals meeting this had a positive impact on the cohesiveness of the core group and sense of clear direction. **Participation of children, young people and families is still a priority**, but not to the exclusion of opportunities for shared, reflective, professionals' discussion and planning. A Reflective Model for Professional Meetings is available, endorsed by the GSCB. Social Care Team Managers are required to hold professional meetings on any child who remains subject of a Child Protection (CP) plan for more than 12 months. Auditors could see that where there was reflective practice and healthy challenge, things moved forward. There were increased signs of the "Escalation Policy" actively being used, but do remember to keep working together in a way that brings each other both high support and high challenge.



Safeguarding Partners - ensure continued promotion of the agreed Escalation Policy. All agencies should make sure that core groups use it, as a way of engaging in healthy challenge where they have concerns. CP Conference chairs are well placed to support. Communicate that the CP plan is only a start and not an end point. CP Conference Chairs can support Core Group member's clarity on this.



Child Protection Chairs - continue to support the expectation that if a Child is not/no longer to be subject of a Child Protection Plan, the Child in Need Plan will be discussed and set out with your assistance before the Conference concludes.

For more information about how the audit was carried out and the detailed findings, please visit the GSCB website and click on the pages 'learning from multi-agency audits'