



## Serious Case Review 2010

# 'Sharing the lessons and reducing the risk' when working with children

## 8 lessons to inform your practice

### **Advocate on behalf of your children - don't drop the ball**

Stay responsible for the child even after referring to a different agency  
- always push for the response you know is needed to fully meet the child's needs. Ensure referrals are of the highest quality.  
Use the professional disagreements policy if you are not satisfied with the response you receive.

### **Sharing Information**

Include all relevant information held by your agency when making a referral, including information on all adults and children, especially previous concerns – missing information could make all the difference.

### **Be Child Focused**

Always view your work through the eyes and experience of the children and young people in the family (and always consider the experiences of any children when working with adults).

### **Quality of Assessments**

Be challenging and rigorous in your assessment of risk – be aware of being too parent focussed, taking things at face value. Determine what is happening to the child and ensure change is taking place.

### **Multiple Risks**

Account for the increased risk to children when parents are dealing with multiple issues - especially mental ill health, domestic abuse, substance misuse and/or they have learning difficulties.

### **Treating Children Equally**

All children should be treated in the same way regardless of disability, culture and ethnicity. They all deserve the same standards in safeguarding.

### **Parental Responsibility**

Know who is responsible for the children you are working with, especially if they are 'looked after children' – and involve the parents fully in decisions about the child when appropriate

### **Crossing Boundaries - Mind the Gap**

Stay responsible for all children in your service if they move, until you are satisfied another service provider has taken on that responsibility – don't let them slip through the gaps.

For further information please contact the Safeguarding Children Service on:

Telephone : 01452 583638

Email: [Duncan.siret@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Duncan.siret@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk)