

## **CROYDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**



**Briefing: Themes From Audits**

**Published: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Background**

The Croydon CSCB carries out various audit activities including

- Serious Case Reviews
- Multi-Agency Audits (most recent: Neglect Audit Spring 2018)
- Single Agency Audits (updates received 6 monthly)
- Section 11 Panel Meetings (update due in November 2018)

### **Findings and Learning**

Full details are contained within relevant reports and have been circulated as appropriate. However the recurring themes from each area above have been presented on single page prompt sheets.

Please consider using these sheets to share the learning across all agencies and organisations working with children and families.

Examples of their use include:

- Multi-Agency practitioners using them to increase their knowledge of findings from audits involving vulnerable children
- Supervision or Management Oversight meetings - to help embed learning and encourage a culture of professional curiosity
- Team Meetings with any staff in any organisation who may interact with children and families, to help inform practice in this area and provoke discussion about how they might react to concerns about a child or young person

A link to the electronic copy can be found [here](#):

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# Themes from Serious Case Reviews carried out by the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board







## Recurring Themes From Serious Case Reviews

- **Drift**

Children are on plans too long, or plans do not progress in time to make a difference
- **Parental issues**

Domestic violence, drugs, alcohol or parental mental health issues take the focus away from the child
- **Lived experience**


A day in the life of the child is not understood or adequately recorded
- **Missed opportunities**

- to reduce the risk of significant harm
- **Professional challenge**

- including supervision. Use of the Escalation Policy is not robust enough
- **OLA**

Other Local Authority Transfer (including NRPF placement out of borough) contributes to risk
- **Invisible Fathers**

The relevance of father figures as protective factors and risk factors is not adequately explored
- **Kinship**

Recognising and supporting kin to be a protective factor /take responsibility for a child is not adequately explored.
- **Thresholds**

- and compliance with standards are not understood and applied consistently



## Recurring Themes From Multi-Agency Audit

1		<b>Plans</b>	The impact of the plan for some children is not understood
2		<b>Parental issues</b>	Domestic violence, drugs, alcohol or parental mental health issues take focus away from the child
3		<b>Lived experience</b>	A day in the life of the child is not understood or adequately recorded
4		<b>Chronology &amp; risk</b>	Good chronology should be compiled - it helps to understand risk
5		<b>Cumulative Neglect</b>	- the negative effect of long term and cumulative neglect is not recognised
6		<b>Timely Action</b>	Referrals are not always timely and systems do not always work to identify children at risk
7		<b>Working Together</b>	Professionals should work well together and provide timely, well evidenced handovers
8		<b>Thresholds</b>	- and compliance with standards are not understood and/or applied consistently



## Recurring Themes From Single Agency Audits

1		<b>Record keeping</b>	The importance of good records to facilitate communication and reduce drift
2		<b>Management oversight</b>	Regular and good quality supervision, supports timely action and encourages professional curiosity
3		<b>Re-audit</b>	Constructive re-audit aids embedding of learning
4		<b>Timely action</b>	Reduces the risk of significant harm occurring
5		<b>Working together</b>	Professionals work well together and engage with the C&YP and their families.
6		<b>Planning</b>	- is key to good quality processes and helps to embed safeguarding from the start.
7		<b>Tools</b>	Practitioners use quality tools and understand that a range of responses are required to reduce risk
8		<b>Staff capacity</b>	Sufficient and competent multi-agency staff are required to work within a robust framework to protect C&YP
9		<b>Information sharing</b>	- is timely, well evidenced and consistently applied.
10		<b>External Influences</b>	The impact of domestic violence, substance misuse, parental MH and social media is recognised and understood



## Most Noted Themes

1



### Thresholds

Do practitioners understand them and apply them correctly?  
Is information sharing appropriate?

2



### Parental issues

Domestic violence, drugs, alcohol or parental mental health issues take focus away from the child

3



### Lived experience

A day in the life of the child is not understood or adequately recorded

4



### Missed opportunities

- (including timely action), to reduce the risk of significant harm occurring

5



### Professional challenge

- including management oversight, use of the Escalation Policy and professionals working together

6



### Good Planning

- including chronology, record keeping and exploring kinship/fathers history