

Learning Summary Child I

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership



1	<p>A summary of the case</p> <p>Child I took their own life in 2019, they were a teenager.</p> <p>Child I lived with their mother and siblings and had a number of vulnerabilities and needs, relating to challenging behaviour, substance misuse, emotional wellbeing (including overdose attempts), poor school attendance and missing episodes. Multiple agencies were working with Child I and the family over a period of 14 months. The child’s emotional wellbeing issues and behaviours escalated gradually but significantly over this time period.</p> <p>Child I was supported through a child in need plan. Child I was also open to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and CAMHS - although engagement with services varied.</p> <p>Children’s Services, including YOT, Police and Child I’s mother were working together positively to try to address Child I’s substance misuse and to support parenting strategies. Child I and their mother were enrolled on ‘Break for Change’ programme, although Child I did not engage in the sessions. A key focus for Children’s Services and YOT had been to try and support Child I back into training/education.</p>
2	<p>Strengths identified in multi-agency response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate and timely referrals made to CRT/MASH by the school, school nurses. • MASH reported good access to and sharing of multiagency information. • Comprehensive assessment from Children’s Social Care which considered multi-agency contributions. • YOT and CAMHS provided a flexible approach to try and maintain engagement with Child I and family. This included CAMHS offering advice and guidance to YOT when Child I would not engage with CAMHS. • Children’s Social Care and YOT worked together to support Child I to re-engage in education -seen as a key priority within the Child in Need plan. • Due to the complexities of Child I’s emotional wellbeing, support had been sought from Forensic CAMHS and these strategies were being followed by relevant partner agencies. • The majority of the agencies reported back independently and said they thought information sharing had been effective.
3	<p>Learning points</p> <p><u>For Managers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further promotion of the early help offer for adolescents and benefits of ‘early help’ for adolescents required-particularly with secondary schools. • Ensuring the voice and experience of the child is taken into account in all work undertaken by partner agencies with families. • Ensure awareness of the ‘Was Not Brought’ policy and procedures across health services, including CAMHS. Relevant agencies should be updated if a particularly vulnerable child has stopped engaging in a service, in order to collectively consider if this constitutes an escalation of risk. • Promotion of new guidance tool for convening and leading professional meetings. • Ensuring the promotion of whole family, strengths-based approaches to support positive engagement and support. <p><u>For practitioners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full consideration of Early Help assessment and planning for adolescents • Importance of full consideration of a child/family’s history so events are not seen or responded to in isolation and patterns in behaviour can be identified to better inform support and interventions • Promoting participation of both parents at appointments and meetings • Ensuring a holistic view is taken of the child/family-to try and fully understand what is going on rather than just the presenting issue

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that children and families are supported to identify what outcomes they want and contribute to the development of plans-to support positive engagement • To ensure that families are fully supported to follow up on signposted services, rather than presumptions being made
4	<p>Themes in common with other reviews on the Isle of Wight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to consider early help support for adolescents • The importance of a whole family, strengths-based approach • Ensuring a holistic view is taken of the child/family-to try and fully understand what is going on rather than just the presenting issue • Importance of full consideration of a child/family's history
5	<p>If you do one thing, take the time to....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the child in the context of them and their family's history, not just what you see in front of you today
6	<p>How this learning was achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency practitioners' learning event was agreed by the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Partnership Learning Inquiry Group (LIG) • This event was unfortunately delayed due to Covid-19 lockdown period-however a virtual practitioner's event with a review panel took place in August 2020 • All practitioners who had direct contact with the child and/or family were provided with a full combined chronology and requested to complete a 'practitioners view' template-giving their own responses to the areas for consideration from their own agencies perspective, providing additional commentary regarding learning from their own organisation, and reflections on multi-agency working in this case • Leads for Children's Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have used the information provided by practitioners and considered at the workshop to form this summary report, including learning points
7	<p>Training and resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOWSCP offers a variety of face to face and online training courses • Online Child Protection Procedures • Published SCR reports and learning summaries can be found on our website under Learning Reviews