This briefing highlights the learning from local case reviews that have been conducted when a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect are suspected.

The briefing pulls together themes, key risk factors and practice recommendations from review that have been carried out between 2019-2021 and aims to help practitioners understand and act upon the learning from case reviews so that they can enhance and improve their safeguarding practice.
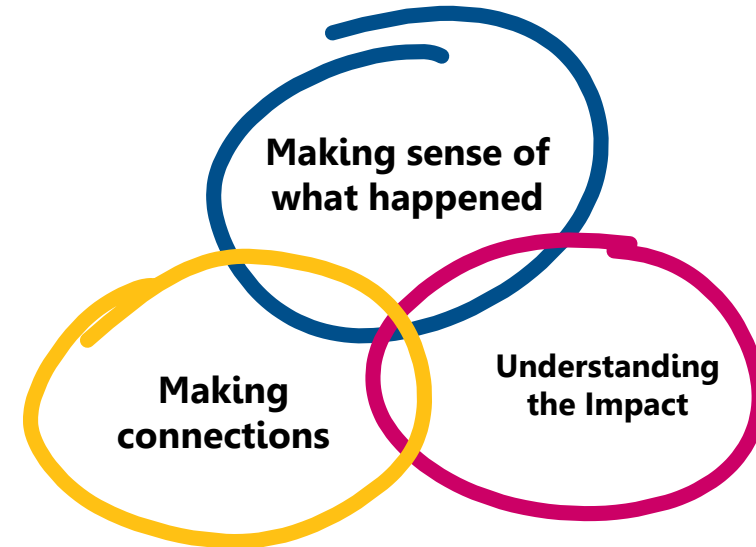

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Shared safeguarding needs for the children of the reviews

- **Under 2 experienced**
  - Non-Accidental Injuries
  - Fabricated and Indued Illness / Perplexing presentation
- **Nursery/School-Age experienced**
  - Neglect

- **Adolescents experienced**
  - Victim of exploitation
  - Emotional & Mental Health with safeguarding needs
    - role of support in/from schools
    - Declared intent/escalating need
    - Impact of trauma (where s/ concerns)
    - Timeliness of referrals/intervention
    - Access to support/services
    - Identity
    - Workforce confidence to recognise/support emotional wellbeing and mental health needs

Interpretations
Within the context of children you work with, how does this fit?

Making sense of what happened

Making connections

Understanding the Impact

Connecting texts
Reflecting on current cases, what is of concern or challenge for you

Response and Beliefs?
What are the ways your service and partners response to needs of children at different ages, what underlying beliefs might you have in practice?

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Shared factors for the Parents/Carers of the reviews

Exploring needs
Where does this fit into the needs of parents you work with?

Exploring significance
How do you determine which needs matter at different times?

Unveiling the key Issues
What sits behind and what shows up front?

Making sense of what happened

Understanding the Impact

Making connections

Where is the impact?
How do these factors impact parents everyday lives?

What is of value?
What is important to you working with the parent, and what is important to the parent?

- **Complex histories**
  - Young Parents / first child (mother)
  - Generational neglect & ACEs
  - Care leavers
- **Complex needs**
  - Parental Mental Health
  - Parental Learning Difficulties
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Parental Drug use – prescription and illegal
  - Parental Behaviours (anger)
  - Late presentation of pregnancy
- **Living and engagement factors**
  - Living in homeless or temporary Housing
  - Unknown adults within the home
  - Resistance to engage with support for young parents

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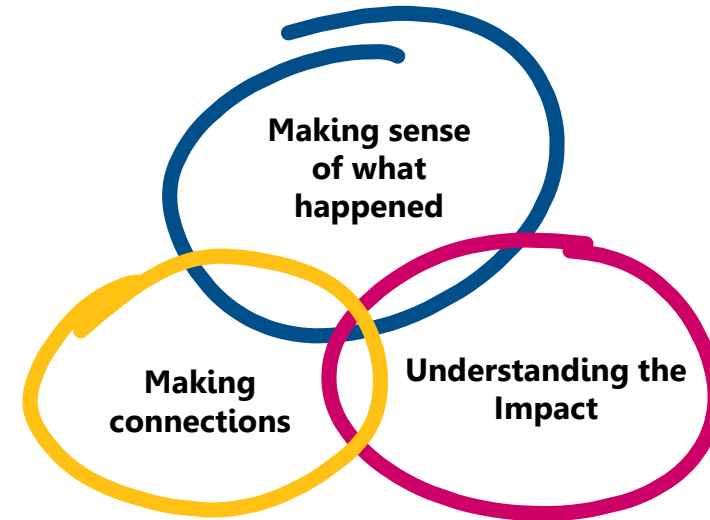
Safeguarding Practice Themes

- **Lack of quality assessments** : Greater use of professional network and better use of history required
- **Under-use/poor use of pre-birth assessments** : Improvement in quality, timeliness and sharing of open & closed pre-birth assessments needed
- **Safeguarding response to late presentation** : Identifying right support as linked to maternal behaviours in pregnancy and knowing that safeguarding doesn't start at birth
- **Lack of parental histories** : Need for increased curiosity and engagement with parents to understand influences on their attitudes/behaviours
- **Use of professional network to raise/lower concerns :** Timely escalation when required and information sharing for accurate understanding presenting needs
- **Professionals use of interpreters and experience of working with under-represented communities** : Importance of understanding cultural needs and behaviours to provide support for sustained change (cultural competency)
- **Recognition of young carers** : Provision of safeguarding response to young people impacted by complex parental needs
- **Early consideration of Non-Accidental Injuries/Perplexing Presentations/FII** : Use of key protocols and professional network to enable early discussion
- **Use of Multi-Agency and Multi-Discipline meetings** : Need to understand role/responsibilities of partners, ownership of actions and purpose of meeting
- **Understanding long term impact of neglect and trauma :** Recognition of how this may present in behaviours and the need for supporting carers of trauma affected children
- **Working with older & transition aged children :** In particular those impacted by exploitation, understanding development, rights and participation and collaboration with relevant services
- **Professional curiosity :** Professional approach to reduce over-reliance on self-reporting through understanding history and unknown adults within the family home/carers
- **Management oversight and secondary trauma :** Provision of support and challenge through supervision and recognition of impact of being exposed to traumatic accounts and experiences of children

Exploring context
Applying this learning to your practice – what matters most?

Unveiling the key Issues
Achieving understanding of needs: what is getting most attention and what might need further exploration?

Making sense of what happened

Making connections

Understanding the Impact

Making connections
What influences your practice?

Who/What is impacted?
How might children affected, see themselves and the world around them?

How has your practice had an impact? How might a partner agency or parent/carer view your intervention

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