

**BACKGROUND**

The DSCB undertook a **Learning Lessons Review** in respect of child T, age 4 when T was found to be living in extremely neglectful living conditions and had suffered significant harm as a result of chronic neglect

**ACTION TAKEN**

T was removed from the family home. The parents received a criminal conviction for neglect as a consequence of the positive multi agency collaboration during the investigation.

**WHAT IT TOLD US**

All agencies should review their practice guidelines in relation to the recording of visits. Often key rooms like the child’s bedroom are not checked. If professionals only see one or two rooms then this should be made clear in the recordings.

**OUTCOME**

**The children have been permanently removed and are now in a secure long term placement.**

**WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW**

Practice errors arise when non-specific case recordings are made such as “home conditions are fine”. This implies that all rooms in the home have been seen when often they have not. Thispotentially leads to false assumptions being made about the child’s living conditions being acceptable when they aren’t.

**WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW**

**In practice this means negotiating with parents to see the child’s bedroom with their consent. This is to check that conditions in the bedroom are acceptable and not markedly worse than the rest of the home. If a parent refuses to give consent then professional curiosity should be applied as to why they do not want you to see it.**

**WHAT IT TOLD US**

Staff should be empowered to be able to ask to see children’s bedrooms on a more regular basis and not assume that other agencies are responsible for this.

DSCB Practice BriefingTS

[www.dscb.co.uk](http://www.dscb.co.uk)