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**Working together with Adult and Children Services**

A serious incident took place involving inappropriate behaviour between a small group of children. The DSCB undertook a learning lessons review to identify if practice improvements could be made which would have prevented the incident. Individual actions have been taken where appropriate by the agencies involved. The DSCB has identified the wider learning which is relevant to all practice.

Common themes which were identified through the review were:

• Behavioural issues existed for all the children involved

• Domestic abuse had occurred in most of the families involved

• There was evidence of parental mental health issues for a number of the parents

• There was evidence of alcohol/substance misuse in a number of the families

**DSCB 2 minute briefings**

What it told us…

There was a delay in one young person receiving medical treatment due to lack of professional understanding about the role of the child protection medical.

What we all need to do now…

New guidance has been provided to agencies to give clarity about the role of the child protection medical available on the DSCB website.

What it told us…

In one family the mother was detained under the Mental Health Act. She returned home without any assessment of her ability to parent**.**

What we all need to do now…

Mental health workers and Children’s Services must work closely to ensure effective support for families.

What it told us…

When the case was passed to early help services, it was not clear who the lead professional was or what they were expected to do.

What we all need to do now…

When stepping down a case to early help the lead professional should be clearly identified and there needs to be formal agreement about what the key purpose of the early help will be.

What it told us…

In one family where there had been domestic abuse, the mother reported that contact with the perpetrator had stopped. On that basis the case was closed and stepped down to early help.

What we all need to do now…

Risk assessments need to be affirmed by other information, not just self-reporting by the parent. Historical information relating to previous behaviour is a good indicator which should inform assessment.

What it told us…

In one family the father was released from prison back into the family home.

What we all need to do now…

A risk assessment should have been undertaken regarding a person posing a risk and a further conversation should have taken place with the Probation Service to determine what the level of risk may be.