

# GSCP 7-Minute Briefing

## CSPR Children C & D



### 1. Background

Children C & D lived with their mother in Greenwich. They had sporadic contact with their birth father.

The family were of Black British/ African heritage.

There was a history of domestic abuse perpetrated by the children's father.

Mother was receiving counselling although had no formal mental health diagnosis and was not on any medication.

The family were not known to Children's social care at the time of the incident but had previously worked with Early Help. A Team Around the Family (TAF) plan was in place.

### 2. What happened

Children C & D died due to a house fire at their home, that Police believe mother started intentionally.

They were brothers aged 5 who died 06/03/20 at scene and age 14 who died 10/03/20 in hospital. The boys mother also passed away in hospital.

**Both children had additional needs.** Child D had an EHCP and Child C was going through the process to obtain an EHCP.

Mother had recently been diagnosed with MS.

### 3. Findings

Support focused on the children & the lack of co-ordination meant that there was a mismatch between the needs of the children, the mother's needs in terms of being able to care for the children & the mother's own needs.

Mother's physical deterioration & fluctuating mental health was a major factor in her finding caring for her children overwhelming. The parents relationship was complex & mother found the legacy of the domestic abuse difficult.

No agency had an in depth understanding of what day to day life was like for these children at home. Their voices are not strong in reports.

### 4. Key Learning

Practitioners to: think more holistically about families and consider all the presenting needs, including those of the adults in the family. Including where there is historic Domestic abuse and/or intrusive thoughts.

Recognise role and responsibilities for parents caring for children with disabilities and how legislation and guidance can support their work

The importance of grasping children's day to day lived experiences and how their history, identity, and individual struggles shape this

Issues of intersectionality and the impact of multiple oppressions experienced by families need to be explored and understood

### 5. Recommendations

Joint working & information sharing between Adult and Children's services to be strengthened.

**GSCP ensure that the learning from this review about the need to assess parents as carers when caring for children with additional needs is embedded in practice in line with the Children and Families Act 2014**

Information available to Parent Carers on Assessments to be clearer about what their entitlement is, how to request it, who can access it and what to expect as a result of such an assessment.

**All agencies have arrangements in place to ensure assessments and ongoing work includes the child's experience and emotional impact of these experiences as well as the child's voice**

### 6. Actions

See the Adult, See the Child guidance revised, relaunched and promoted widely across the partnership.

Increase practitioner confidence to be professionally curious through training and awareness raising.

Seek assurances from agencies that all assessment forms include a section for the child's voice.

Share the report and learning with Adults Services.

### 7. Further Reading

[See the Adult, See the Child](#)