

**1****Background**

Child C was 9 years old when she died. She was found in the bath, submerged under water in September 2021, having been left unsupervised. Child C had global delay, epilepsy and learning disabilities, culminating in significant and complex needs. Practitioners involved with Child C described her as an energetic, entertaining child who was often determined and willful when deciding on what she wanted to do. It was suggested that Child C could communicate to a moderate degree, but that the success of this would depend on her mood and environment.



## Child Practice Review

### Child C - 06 2021

**2****Summary of agency involvement during the timeline**

Child C was under the care of Paediatric Neurology for epilepsy and would also be routinely seen by an Epilepsy Specialist Nurse. Records indicated that she hadn't had a seizure for approximately 2 years prior to her death. However, there are some indications which have become apparent during the course of this review, that this may not have been the case. It has come to light that she may have had a seizure more recently although there are no records of this disclosed to this review.

**7****Improving Systems and Practice**

CTMSB to review the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures and their Core Group Guidance (April 2022) with a view to aligning both protocols and establishing a process for identifying the most appropriate chair, attendees and minute takers for Core Groups The Local Authority to review their process for Social Worker allocation following the identification of CP concerns, when a team is already involved in the family. An automatic allocation to a Child Safeguarding Social Worker may not be in the best interests of the child and may complicate information sharing routes. The rationale for this decision to be clearly recorded and communicated with the professionals involved.

**3****Summary of agency involvement during the timeline**

During the timeline Child C had scheduled Paediatric, Radiology and Neurology appointments. Child and her C family had been known to Children Social Care Services for over a decade. Prior to the timeline, Child C and Child D were added to the Child Protection Register in November 2019 under the categories of Neglect and Sexual Abuse. Significantly, there were a series of five incidents involving Child D being found unaccompanied outside of the family home or having been reported missing during the timeline.

**6****Improving Systems and Practice**

- Quoracy of CP Conferences fully considered and rationale for post poning or going ahead clearly recorded.
- CTMUHB identify the correct professional/s to attend CP Conferences who are able to provide relevant information that is bespoke to the child being considered.
- All agencies to ensure that C&S Reviews are sufficiently robust in terms of attendance and contribution.
- CTMSB CP guidance needs to ensure that lived experience as well as factual information is recorded.

**5****Effective Practice Themes**Consistent Service Provision during COVID-19

- Agencies were pro-active in maintaining contact and meeting the family's needs.
  - School responded swiftly to Child C's mother presenting in crisis and also increased this provision to twice weekly.
- Professional relationships demonstrating responsiveness and promoting family engagement
- The Disabled Children's Team Social Worker is noted to have appropriately challenged Child C's mother in relation to allegations, despite being faced with a hostile response.
  - There appears to be a sense of transparency between Child C's mother, maternal grandmother and professionals. Deliberate disclosures are made by both, particularly to Children's Services, despite being likely to invite professional scrutiny or concern.

**4****Practice and Organisational Learning**

Having considered direct feedback from practitioners and the timeline of practice activity, the Reviewers identified the following learning themes:

- Multi-agency sharing of information to identify child protection concerns.
- Quoracy and the quality of information being presented at Conference.
- Management of multi-agency responsibilities for a disabled child outside of child protection process.