



Learning from CMR's

2018 – 2019

Learning From CMR's 2018-19

Consideration of CMR Notifications

During the reporting year 2018-2019 twenty CMR notifications were received by the SBNI and of these two CMRs were commissioned.

A total of three CMR reports were presented to and approved by the SBNI during the reporting period. From these reports seventeen recommendations were identified for regional application.

Dissemination of key messages/learning from CMRs

A regional event and 7 local events covering all Safeguarding Panel areas were held throughout the year to disseminate the learning arising from CMRs completed by the SBNI. These events were again well attended by all multi-agency partners in Northern Ireland. Summary points from the learning are available on the SBNI website.

Northern Area Safeguarding Panel event



Learning Identified

Learning Identified from CMRs

The following learning has been identified from the CMRs completed during the reporting period

CMR 1

Greater understanding by the Education Authority in relation to the thresholds for referrals relating to child protection and neglect - an increased awareness in schools of the role of the Child Protection Support Service.

- The timeliness of responses to referrals and the need for Initial Assessments to be holistic and include all family members.
- Greater liaison with the PSNI Public Protection Branch and other agencies involved in cases where a child has died and the death is unexplained. Review of the *Protocol for the 'Joint Investigation by Social Workers and Police Officers of Alleged and Suspected Cases of Child Abuse (NI)'* to include arrangements for management oversight to and support for children who find it difficult to make a complaint.

CMR 2

- The need for a consistent and co-ordinated multi-agency approach in Northern Ireland in relation to young people who display harmful sexual behaviour and to individuals who cause concern in the context of families.
- Commissioning of expert reports should be subject to agreed standards and governance processes.
- The need for the development of guidance on the escalating of concerns and information sharing between agencies.
- Closer collaboration between agencies in relation to individuals who are a cause for concern.

CMR 3

- Consideration of legislative changes and the development of guidance in relation to children on Care Orders who reside in a different Trust area.
- The raising of standards for Looked After Children by a review of the care planning process and increasing knowledge and practice by the development of a regional data base and guidance for children in kinship care placements.

- Guidance to be developed on Safety Plans for children known to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

How has the learning from CMRs made children and young people safer in Northern Ireland?

Better sharing of information between hospitals and health visitors to support and improve local care when are children admitted and discharged through the Emergency Department. Health Visitors are notified when children are admitted and discharged from hospital, and informed of the reason for admission;

GPs are now more inclusive when dealing with fathers of young children and the possible consequences to the family as a unit. This is emphasized in GP training;

The involvement of GPs in the child protection process has been supported by policy and procedures being developed and issued to all GP practices;

A Protocol for dealing with Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy is currently being developed. The definition of a Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy will include babies who are determined as deceased on first presentation, when the birth was not overseen by a relevant health professional;

Greater awareness of the need to be proactive in cases of chronic neglect and the understanding of the underlying criminal offences. This has been reinforced through dissemination of learning events;

'Children under Threat' Guidance for staff in agencies working with children under paramilitary threat is being developed;

'Escalation and Resolution' Policy guidance to support the substantive resolution of issues of concern has been developed and is being piloted in one of the Trust areas;

Seminars are now held by the Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency and children and young people's Legal Representatives on the issue of determining older children and young people's competency versus their best interests in the context of neglect and the implications of this on advocating on behalf of children and young people who have experienced neglect.