

# Statement from Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership following publication of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review for Child L

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Cheshire East Safeguarding Partnership are publishing the findings of a local child safeguarding practice review (LCSPR) to consider the multi-agency safeguarding response around child sexual exploitation and intra-familial harm regarding a 13-year-old girl known as 'Child L'.

Child L suffered abuse at the hands of people she should have been able to trust to protect her. As a partnership we are committed to work together to protect children from abuse. We will make sure that any learning from this review is embedded in practice and makes a lasting and positive impact for children and adults, their families, and the communities in which they live.

A local child safeguarding practice review was undertaken, using the SILP (Significant Incident Learning Process) methodology, which engages frontline staff and their managers who were involved with the children and the family. Engagement with children and family is a key part of the process. This review recognised a number of contributing factors and responses where lessons could be learned about the way agencies worked together individually and collectively to respond and safeguard children.

Whilst this LCSPR is focussed on Child L it is important to acknowledge that two younger siblings have also experienced and been impacted by the same family issues

Steps have been taken to learn from the review and measures put in place to ensure that agencies come together to work more effectively as a team in cases such as this.

Key learning from the review includes:

- The importance of appreciating the child's lived experience and the cumulative impact of adversity, harm, and trauma.
- Children and young people who make disclosures of abuse and harm must be listened to with **intent to do something** and consider other behavioural responses to harm. Children should not be blamed for their own exploitation.
- The significance of sharing information through a multi-agency lens. The importance of critical reflection and challenge
- Develop systems and practice that are domestic abuse aware and trauma-informed,
- The importance of identifying a trusted adult with vulnerable young people and building relationships. Recognising the safety that school can provide for children experiencing intra and extra-familial harm
- Increased awareness of the signs of child sexual exploitation and the processes to access specialist guidance/support
- Ensuring disclosures of harm have a statutory multi-agency response and include consideration of health and wellbeing needs.
- Developing a whole family /think family response to support understanding of risk where there are complex adult issues.
- Recognising the importance of critical thinking through good reflective supervision

All partners continue to work together to recognise, respond and fulfil our responsibilities to ensure that children, young people, and families are effectively safeguarded, and their welfare promoted.

If you need help and support on any of the issues covered in the report, there are services that can support you. Visit [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell)

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child call 0300 123 5012

If you have any questions about this review please contact the Council's communications and media team at [media@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:media@cheshireeast.gov.uk)