



Cheshire West and Chester
Safeguarding Children
Partnership



Statement from Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding Children Partnership following publication of the Thematic Review of Non-Accidental Injuries in Children under 1 year.

Today, Monday 7th February 2022, we have published a Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review in relation to non-accidental injuries in children under 1 year.

The learning and recommendations are derived from the experiences of five infants, two of whom met the national criteria for a statutory safeguarding review, and three who did not meet the criteria, but we recognised opportunities for multi-agency learning.

Reviews such as this are difficult to read and whilst this report is not linked to the death of any children in our borough, we recognise the significant short- and long-term impact of the injuries that young babies have suffered. Our thoughts are with the children and families of all those affected.

The Partnership wanted to seek assurance that multi-agency practice and policy was sufficiently robust to respond effectively in addressing parental factors that can compromise the safety of infants. It expanded the number of children under 1 year of age included in this review to enhance the opportunity for local learning in an effort to prevent future harm.

The findings and recommendations are based on local and national learning given the focus this issue has received during the pandemic. The Partnership fully accepts the findings and has already begun to translate the learning into action.

We have:

- Introduced the ICON Programme (an initiative aimed at reducing abusive head trauma injuries by raising awareness that infant crying is normal and providing strategies to manage the caregiver's feelings) through training of the multi-agency workforce
- Conducted audits to seek assurance that ICON is embedded in multi-agency practice across Police, Social Care and all Health Partners.
- Begun to review training in relation to Pre-Birth Assessments and Parental Factors
- Delivered a series of awareness raising events to multi-agency practitioners in relation to the vulnerability of infants.

An action plan will accompany this review and progress will be overseen by the partnership

Contact Details in relation to this Safeguarding Practice Review

If you have any questions about this Safeguarding Practice Review please contact Laura Johnson, (Senior Media and Communications Manager) at Laura.Johnson2@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or via 01244 972216

Support Services

iART

If you have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please call the Integrated Access and Referral Team (I-ART) or the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) for help and advice.

Call:

0300 123 7074 (Monday – Thursday 8:30am-5pm; Friday 8:30am-4:30pm)

01244 977 277 (out of hours)

ICON

If you are a parent or carer struggling to manage an infant crying there is help and support available. You can visit the ICON website for useful strategies, talk to your GP or your Health Visitor.

<https://www.cheshirewestscp.co.uk/parents-carers/icon-abusive-head-trauma/>