

## **Overview of learning from Havering LSCB's Serious Case Review into Child F**

Havering LSCB's Serious Case Review into Child F concerns the death of a 17-year-old boy from injuries sustained after he threw himself in front of a vehicle, in 2011. Child F's mother had died after a suicide attempt in 2006, prior to which she had had extensive involvement with children's services, police, health and mental health services, following a number of incidents of domestic abuse committed by Child F's father and mother's previous suicide attempts. Child F had a history of anti-social behaviour, contact with police and periods of school exclusion.

The SCR identifies learning re:

- Working with families that are hard to engage;
- Improving agencies' understanding of and practice in working with families where domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse issues are present and the impact of these three known co-morbidities;
- The need to focus on the voice of the child and their needs, as opposed to focus on adults' needs solely;
- The potential benefit of multi-agency Early Help Assessments as effective tools of establishing and addressing needs and engaging families effectively and related to this, the need to ensure professionals are confident in using these tools and initiating them in appropriate cases;
- The need for familiarity with and use of escalation and resolution protocols in the event of differing professional views of thresholds being met;
- Effective management of transition between case workers and teams to ensure no loss of focus or delay in action to protect children;
- The need to respond effectively to referrals relating to concerns around young people's use of alcohol and substances; and,
- The responsibility of courts for considering children's well-being when hearing domestic abuse cases.

This report also highlights the need for multi-agency professionals to think about the impact suicide on children and young people (in both the immediate and longer term), for example family history of suicide, and the need for targeted support including bereavement support, but more broadly on a community level, a comprehensive suicide prevention framework specific to, or including, children and young people.

The executive summary of the report may be accessed via the following link:

<https://www3.havering.gov.uk/Documents/Children-young-people-and-families/Havering%20safeguarding%20board/SCRReview/Child%20F%20exec%20final%20151112.pdf>