

# STOCKPORT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

## 01 Background

Child N was the first child of young parents. Child N was found to have sustained a serious head injury for which there was no accidental explanation when the child was 13 weeks old. Child N was known to universal services. Dad (20 yrs) had been known to youth offending services in his teens for assault including domestic abuse and possession of drugs. Mum (19 yrs) had a troubled family history herself and had been a victim of sexual exploitation in her middle teens and domestic abuse within relationships. She was previously known to services. She was pregnant very early into the relationship with her partner.

## 02 The role of men in families

Dad accompanied Mum to antenatal appointments but the initial booking information wasn't updated. Mum was identified as high social risk. When Child N was 4 weeks old, Dad's mum died and Dad asked the landlord for permission to take over the tenancy. Mum and Child N moved into the house. Very little information was known or sought about Dad. Men can remain unnoticed to professionals even when they are in plain sight. Their role should be carefully assessed both in terms of risk and protective factors.

## 07 Understanding

### Trauma

Term "CSE" does not easily convey the nature of abuse and violence to which young people are exposed. The review suggests that professionals' use of abbreviations such as CSE for child sexual exploitation can minimise understanding of the impact of the experience and the extent of the trauma involved of the impact of parenting.

## 06 Information Sharing

Some agencies were aware that dad was involved in dealing drugs but this information was not shared with agencies who would have been working with Mum and Child N. This was because neither were aware of the other. The premises were searched shortly after Mum and Child N moved in, when they weren't at home. Dad was subsequently arrested and charged. Partner agencies should check with the MASSH for other agency involvement when they are planning interventions.

