

Lessons Learned Bulletin

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

This bulletin has been developed as a means to share lessons learned, to improve safety, reduce risks and improve patient care.

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Keep your focus on the Child

A recently completed Serious Case Review (SCR) identified a number of key messages for staff. The SCR concerned a 5 month old child admitted to hospital in an emergency with two skull fractures along with bruising to the side of the face. The mother and father could offer no satisfactory explanation for the injuries. The injuries caused agencies to re-consider the response to the injuries observed on a sibling at an earlier date with the decision to undertake a SCR. The outcomes clearly concluded that an opportunity to protect the sibling was missed during two medicals by two different paediatricians.

What can we learn?

Don't be afraid to challenge

The SCR found that a rule of optimism was followed with explanations made by the parents accepted without questioning. Paediatricians should maintain a healthy degree scepticism.

Consider disguised compliance

Disguised compliance is where a parent or carer gives the appearance of co-operating with agencies to avoid raising suspicions.

Ensure when undertaking medical examination under safeguarding procedures that the context of any such previous medical reports are highlighted and considered. PAHT are to introduce a Trust Medical Report template and develop quality control of Section 47 Medical Reports 'Children Act' (1989)

Have case notes available for safeguarding medicals

Formalise peer support

Seek peer support and if unsure obtain a 2nd opinion. Clarification must be sought or a second opinion requested if not satisfied with the findings.

Sharing of information following a medical under safeguarding procedure must be achieved in a timely manner. Use phrases and language that provides clarity of intent. Share information with the GP.

Information sharing

Remember:

- * Record keeping standards
- * Safeguard Children Training-

For more information contact: Trust Safeguarding Team: 0161 918 4420

