

**1** In Feb 2019 Child M, who was 4 weeks old, was presented at A+E by his father. He reported that both himself and the child's mother had found a red mark on Child M's head when he had woken for a feed.

On examination Child M was found to have bruising to his face, left arm, chest and his upper leg.

Childrens social care were contacted, and a strategy meeting held and following this Child M's sibling was accommodated in the care of the Local Authority and Child M remained in hospital

Following discussion at a Rapid Review meeting a decision was made to undertake a Learning Review

### **7** Specific actions for Primary care emerging from review

- To ensure that records of children and young people are clearly identified as being Looked After Children/ Children in Care or Leaving Care/ No longer subject of looked after child arrangement.
- To increase their awareness/knowledge and skills regarding the ongoing vulnerabilities that may impact on the health and wellbeing of LAC/CIC and Leaving care young People.
- Explore ways to engage young people who are leaving care to support with unmet health needs and promote access to the service.
- To ensure that information received for new-born children, prior to registration, is stored safely and is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that health and safeguarding needs are met, and registration occurs

### **6** Recommendations made following the review

- If Pathway Plan breaks down within first six months – a review should be chaired by an IRO
- In higher risk cases or where SW has a positive relationship – gradual transition to PA
- Awareness of change in funding from mother and baby placement to Staying Put
- Staying Put agreement should incorporated into Pathway Plan
- Parenting assessment to take into account future changes, including contingencies and have foresight of possible changes re placement moves
- Information about fathers (and other males) to be included in assessments.
- Safeguarding referrals regarding the children of care-leavers must be given a response proportionate to the history of the parent and child and based on understanding child's lived experiences

**2** At this time Child M 's mother was supported by leaving care.

She came into Local Authority care when she was 13years old and became pregnant at 14 with Child M's sibling. She was placed in a mother and baby foster placement and she did well with her first child. It was noted however that she was in a stable placement with support from foster carers and intensive intervention from family nurse partnership.

Following breakdown of her 'Staying Put' placement she moved into her own tenancy with her son and then met her new partner. She quickly became pregnant with Child M.

The chronology noted that this was the time that concerns started to arise

**3** Child M was not open to children's social care and known to only universal health services. His sibling had previously been open to Social care services but was closed as his needs were being met in the care of his mother in her placement.

Very little was known about Child M's father as he was from another area. The chronology showed that he did attend most of the planned antenatal appointments and was present for home visits. Despite this there was no evidence of any meaningful engagement or exploration with him.

Following further tests in hospital Child M was found to have 11 injuries on his body, including 2 healing hip fractures and suffered multiple bleeds on the brain causing seizures.

Prior to the NAI Child M's mother was attending her GP for care relating to concerns about the pregnancy. Child M was not registered with the practice following birth.

**4** The aim of the learning review was to look at the quality of leaving care support offered to parents, and the risk assessment processes undertaken around the birth of second child with a different parent.

A Practitioners was held which provided an opportunity for senior managers, managers and practitioners who were involved with the family, to examine the case together from a systemic perspective.

### **5** Key messages from the review

- The importance of assessments when circumstances change ie when moving into independent accommodation, or pregnant with second child/ subsequent child.
- Understanding the role of those working with Care Leavers and who has oversight when safeguarding concerns are raised around parenting
- Lack of challenge – focus was on parent (as a care leaver) and not on the child
- Role of fathers/ significant males – information was not known

