



WARRINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

MULTI AGENCY REVIEW

CHILD Y

DATE OF BIRTH: 14th JULY 1986

DISAPPEARED: 11th SEPTEMBER 2003

FOUND DECEASED: 4th FEBRUARY 2004

MARCH 2013

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report was commissioned by Warrington Safeguarding Children Board following a Serious Case Review Criteria Panel which was held in relation to Child Y held on 15.10.2012. Warrington Area Child Protection Committee had conducted a Part 8 Review in relation to Child Y in 2004, however following the conviction of Child Y's parents for her murder; further consideration was given as to whether it would be appropriate to conduct a Serious Case Review.
- 1.2 The Panel agreed that the case did not meet the criteria for serious case review given a Part 8 Review had been undertaken in 2004. The Part 8 Review was conducted in line with the statutory guidance at the time. However, the Panel recommended that a Multi Agency Review should be conducted by an Independent Author. The purpose of the Multi Agency Review is to address and evidence that agencies individually and collectively can reassure Warrington Safeguarding Children Board and the public that the relevant recommendations from the Part 8 Report have been implemented. This Review to be set in the context of current practice given it is now 8 years on.
- 1.3 The Independent Author Ms Colleen Murphy works as an Independent Social Worker undertaking a range of work specifically in children's services and quality assurance. Ms Murphy has been a qualified social worker for twenty four years, and has previously worked in social work and social work management posts in the Local Authority and voluntary sector. Ms Murphy has undertaken Chair and authorship roles in many Serious Case Reviews and Critical Incident Reviews. Ms Murphy has had no previous involvement with the case of Child Y and has no connections with any of the agencies involved in the review.
- 1.4 Child Y was the eldest of five children. She was born in Bradford to parents of Pakistani origin and moved to the Warrington area with her family at the age of two years. Child Y remained living with her family throughout her childhood. At the point of her disappearance in 2003 she was seventeen years old. In 2012, both her parents were found guilty and imprisoned for her murder.
- 1.5 It is now known that shortly before her disappearance, Child Y had rejected a suitor in a marriage arranged by her parents during a trip to Pakistan. Alarm was raised about her disappearance by teachers from her previous High School. A nationwide hunt was launched and in February 2004 Child Y's body was found in the River Kent, Cumbria, seventy miles away from Warrington. The post mortem findings led the police to believe that Child Y had died at the time of, or shortly after her disappearance.

- 1.6 An extensive police investigation could not evidentially establish a perpetrator, members of the family were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice however no charges were brought until September 2011.
- 1.7 In 2010, Child Y's younger sister staged a robbery that took place at their parents' house. The young woman was subsequently arrested, and told the police that her parents had killed Child Y because they were afraid that Child Y's refusal to accept the arranged marriage would bring shame upon the family.
- 1.8 Child Y attended a Warrington High School from 1997 to 2003, and after leaving was enrolled at a local college. Child Y was described as a capable girl by her school, meeting and in some cases exceeding her educational targets, liked by fellow pupils and respected by teachers. Up until 2001, there was no indication that Child Y was under any degree of stress, however, by late 2002, reports of Child Y's self reported unhappiness became known to agencies and continued until her death.
- 1.9 This report does not intend to replicate the Part 8 that was conducted by Warrington Area Child Protection Committee in 2004, but to review the progress since that review in the light of the parents' convictions, to establish the extent to which the learning has been embedded into practice and to identify any outstanding issues for further consideration.

2. 2004 Part 8 Review

- 2.1 The Part 8 Review was completed in 2004 and in accordance with regulatory requirements and national standards of that time. The Review was conducted by an interagency panel of senior officers and the report was written by an Independent Author.
- 2.2 The Part 8 Review produced an Overview Report.
- 2.3 The Overview Report made the following recommendations:
 1. All agencies must ensure that their internal procedures in terms of record keeping and processes are complied with and that these are aligned and support the overarching multi agency ACPC Child Protection Procedures
 2. Children who run away or go missing and have been reported as such to the police must be seen alone by a police officer upon their return
 3. All agencies must ensure that their staff supervision arrangements are complied with and be prepared to take action with staff who do not comply
 4. All agencies should provide up to date and relevant information databases for front line staff so that they are better positioned to inform and advise service users

5. The ACPC Child Protection procedures need to include more culturally relevant information about working with black and ethnic minority communities
6. Basic child protection training for all agencies should remind all staff of the practice of validating and corroborating what children and young people say
7. Front line staff in all agencies need to be reminded that the ACPC Child Protection Procedures apply to everyone under 18
8. Front line staff in all agencies need to be reminded that they can and should, where they deem it appropriate, override a child/young person's wishes and feelings
9. The ACPC should ensure that all staff understand that young people under 18 who are involved in violence at home are dealt with through the child protection process even when they are involved in relationships with others or married and not the domestic violence procedures
10. Warrington ACPC should implement the new guidance on Forced Marriage and provide multi agency training in relation to it
11. Warrington ACPC should embark on a community relations exercise to inform and advise that the guidance on Forced Marriage is to be implemented
12. All front line staff should undertake enhanced training in relation to cultural issues to increase their understanding and boost confidence when undertaking assessments and investigations involving ethnic minority communities
13. Medical staff on adult wards should undertake basic child protection awareness training
14. Social Services should be alerted when a young person under 18 is placed on an adult ward so that an overview of that young person can be undertaken
15. Agency Child Protection procedures, their implementation and operation should be reviewed in the further education service and by the Connexions Service to ensure compliance with the ACPC Child Protection procedures for young people up to the age of 18
16. Each agency in their own reports has identified a number of learning points and made recommendations which should be included in the ACPC action plan arising from this Part 8 review.

2.4 Measured against current standards of practice, many of the above recommendations could not be considered SMART, and it is therefore difficult for agencies to evidence achievement or implementation. Additionally, the progression of time has resulted in updated statutory guidance in relation to the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 which sets out the processes agencies must have in place when exercising public functions in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in cases of forced marriage.

3. Update to Part 8 Review

3.1 In order to provide an accurate update for the WSCB on the progress of agencies in relation to the improvements made since the review, direct consultation has taken place with the following agencies:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Warrington Borough Council – Children and Young People’s Services(CYPS) Targeted Services
- Warrington Borough Council – CYPS Universal Services
- Warrington Borough Council, Homeless and Housing Services
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust
- Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Warrington and Halton NHS Foundation Trust

3.2 Each agency had an acute awareness of the Child Y case, and, because of this awareness and understanding, current guidance in relation to Forced Marriage is a priority issue for training and development. Each agency was able to articulate an understanding of the difference between an *arranged* marriage and a *forced* marriage and had clear reference criteria for making a judgement.

3.3 In Warrington, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities represent only 7 % of the total population. Practitioners noted that the most significant emerging community is Eastern European. The smaller presence of BME communities can present particular challenges to safeguarding agencies. It is less likely that practitioners will experience a culturally diverse client group and this in itself can inhibit the development of culturally safe and sensitive practice. Safeguarding issues that are associated with particular racial groups are likely to be very unusual as opposed to familiar territory for front line practitioners.

3.4 Of the agencies that took part in this exercise, only two could recall other examples of concern about forced marriage in the last 10 years, both had a span beyond Warrington alone. This should in no way be taken to suggest that indicators are being missed, more simply that this form of abuse is likely to be rarer than in other areas which have stronger ethnic diversity.

3.5 All agencies were able to evidence how child protection training and specifically Forced Marriage is incorporated into their training agenda, and this is outlined in the table below:

Agency	Training and Development
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012 all front line officers had a training event which covered Forced marriage and honour based violence • Involved in staging multi agency Conferences for front line staff • Local force has an Honour Based Violence Working Group and has representation at a national level.
WH NHS Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This case is used for Intercollegiate Level 1 and 2 training • Staff on adult wards undertake Level 1 training • Consultants receive safeguarding training on a annual basis
CCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses standards from Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy which comply with Working Together 2010 and LSCB procedures for all commissioning requirements • Commissioners require all staff to attend intercollegiate training at Level 1 (all staff) Level 2 (some contact with children) Level 3 (frequent contact with children)
Homeless and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff have attended training on Forced Marriage some staff have enhanced training including CADA/ DASH risk assessment (tools for domestic and honour based violence risk assessment)
Bridgewater Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services access intercollegiate training programme • 2011 training event on Forced Marriage targeted at community health staff with mandatory attendance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty and Assessment staff received training • A shift to strong culture of child centred practice means that assessments are not sidetracked, the experience of the child remaining at the heart • Evidence of very different response in 2010 to protecting the remaining child in the family
LA CYPS- Universal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning sessions with Designated Safeguarding Professionals (being revisited) • Advice and consultation available to all Schools from Safeguarding Manager (opt in requirement to Academy Schools)

3.6 All agencies were confident that staff know how to access safeguarding procedures through IT systems and how to reach specific guidance

through the same methods. Access through to specific guidance on Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence is easily achieved.

- 3.7 All agencies subscribe to the Pan Cheshire LSCB Protocol for Children Missing from Home or Care. The Protocol states the need for a child to be seen by a person independent of their carers when returning from being missing; in Warrington this is provided by a commissioned service 'Catch 22'.
- 3.8 There was a consistent view amongst agencies that recognised young people as a child up until the age of 18 years. Targeted Services Social Work Service in particular were clear that there had been a radical change in social work practice and a definite shift in attitude to promoting a culture whereby age would never be a sole or overriding consideration when assessing risk or criteria for services as a child. In order to ensure 'Merton compliant' judgements of young people who present as homeless a clearly defined joint protocol is in place between Targeted Services Social Work Service and Homeless Services which both agencies report works well in assessing the need for services. The Homeless Service flagged up however the particular problem of providing suitable accommodation for young people under 18 but not accommodated, and wished to highlight that bed and breakfast accommodation is often the only far from suitable option. When young people are placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, a risk assessment is always completed.
- 3.9 It was recognised that for Child Y, the school and teaching staff had an appreciation that her welfare was at some risk; indeed it was her previous school that reported her as missing once they heard of this from peer sources. Child Y had just enrolled at a local college, but because she was never subject to any formal safeguarding procedures, the college would have had no historical information to inform their interpretation of her situation. The Local Authority CYPS Universal Services recognised that schools may often have low level or unproven information about young people which ends with their school placement because there are no formal mechanisms to pass such information from school to college.
- 3.10 The Safeguarding Service based in CYPS Universal Services provides an accessible consultation service to schools which is reported as very well used. The Service is however concerned that as more schools achieve academy status, they will need to make an 'opt in' choice to access this service with a fee payable to the service. WSCB may wish to satisfy themselves that schools that have academy status are able to demonstrate their arrangements for safeguarding.
- 3.11 The review considered the range of health services and reviewed the specific health recommendations. It is suggested that recommendation 14 from the 2004 review is no longer an appropriate expectation. It is Trust policy that children in hospital should always be placed in children's

wards. There are two possible exceptions, firstly if increased demand necessitated a temporary placement on a general ward and it agreed that in such circumstances it is appropriate for the Trust to notify their designated safeguarding professional to undertake a risk assessment. Secondly, it is recognised that there are occasions whereby an older young person could elect any may have their welfare needs better met not in a ward with young children. There should be no necessity to inform Targeted Services when either of these situations occur unless the Trust's own risk assessment indicates a need for additional assessment.

3.12 In reviewing the interagency activity highlighted from the 2004 Part 8 Review, it is apparent that there was a lack of formal challenge or escalation in the cases which resulted in a poor judgement at that time in a Child Protection Conference and other children in the family remaining at significant harm with a non co-operative parent. All agencies were able to give examples of how they had recently offered challenge and/or escalation and clearly saw this as a necessary element of a safe child protection system. A concrete example of safer child protection practice was evidenced from the decision by Targeted Services Social Work Service to initiate proceedings in respect of the youngest child of the family in 2010 despite the earlier decision in similar circumstances to take a non interventionist approach to protecting the other children of the family in previous years. This presented the service with a particular challenge in needing to justify to the judiciary the change in assessment direction, and it is a testament to a changing service that past poor judgement was corrected and benefited the child.

4. Recommendations

4.1 This review has evidenced that services across the agencies in Warrington are well attuned to the safeguarding issue of forced marriage and honour based violence. The case of Child Y has clearly been a catalyst from which much learning has been taken, with procedures and training embedded into general practice. The challenge will be to maintain what is currently a high alert issue. The review has identified some areas of vulnerability where safeguarding could be enhanced as follows:

1. To address the need to further increase local options and resources for young people who present as homeless, with a particular target of not using unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation;
2. That through Section 11 arrangements, schools who achieve academy status are required to evidence satisfactory safeguarding arrangements and support;
3. That consideration is given as to how, and in what circumstances, information or concerns about a child's welfare who is leaving school

and not subject to formal procedures is recorded on accessible data systems that can be readily retrieved.