

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership



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# **PDSCP Child Sexual Abuse Conference**

## **26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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# **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review**

## **Thematic Summary: Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse**

**Published March 2022**

**Report is available via the PDSCP website, or the direct link is here: [Final Dorset CSPR Report -Thematic summary intra-familial child sexual abuse 31.03.2022](#)**

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## **This session will:**

- Walk through how the Review was undertaken
- Reflect upon the family perspective
- Share the Key Learning
- Consider recommendations for practice and system change across the Partnership
- Provide an opportunity for reflections and questions
- Pause to consider your own practice with IFCSA – the barriers and enablers



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# What we did

- Commissioned following Rapid Review
- COVID19 – an online, virtual CSPR
- Family Involvement
- Key lines of enquiry
- Learning Event & Feedback
- Psychological & Business Support
- Deadlines – timely approach



# The Report

- Thematic Summary
- The style and language used
- Format
- Summary with Analysis not descriptive detail
- Family & professional participation & collaboration



# The family perspective : the importance of support & services

- Listen to children carefully, offering a non-judgmental approach especially when there is retraction
- *“the words you use with us are powerful and stick in our minds. We try to say through the things we do”*
- Children are unlikely to keep wanting to re-tell their account or build new relationships.
- *“it is too difficult, even if you try really hard”*
- Explain what choices and options there are in a way that can be understood, as language can be confusing and check again we have understood



## Family Perspective.....

- Social Workers should take care not to be “sucked in” by adults who are highly manipulative ... consider who visits
- Work with the other parent by listening to their views more and offer support to them
- Share reports and information at the time you receive them
- Ask the child and parent their views on how meetings should be run and how participation feels safest for them as there is a risk it is more damaging, albeit non-intentionally



# What we found.....

- Some good practice
- 3 Areas of Key Learning
- 5 Recommendations for Practice & Systems Change



# Key Learning 1

## *Barriers and Enablers for children*

- Children's decision-making to tell
- Participation is protection – how we listen to children & enable choice
- The critical role of School in Keeping Children Safe
- Working with Adults who are suspected/known to Harm



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# Key Learning 2

## *Professionals Identifying & Responding to Child Sexual Abuse*

- Understanding Patterns of Harm & Risk Assessments
- Thresholds & Child Protection Conferences
- Safety Planning
- Police Actions & Legal Safeguarding Orders



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# Key Learning 3

*Multi-agency systems designed to keep children safe from IFCSA*

- The Complexity of IFCSA & Organisational Safeguarding Cultures
- Sharing Information
- Professional Curiosity & Having Difficult Conversations
- COVID19

# Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1:** A Multi-Agency Sexual Abuse toolkit is available to all the Partnership via the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership website
- **Recommendation 2:** Practice in relation to IFCSA needs to be strengthened in Children's Social Care
- **Recommendation 3:** Child Protection Case Conference Protocols and Practice need reviewing



# Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 4:** Children's Social Care and Police Joint protocol is required
- **Recommendation 5:** Health and Public Health to assure the Pan-Dorset Partnership that all health information is available at Child Protection Review Conferences and to have the appropriate Health professional present to be part of multi-agency decision making for school age children



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# Thank you for listening





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## Pause for reflection.....

- Take 5 minutes to think of a family you have worked with where IFCSA is the predominate risk of harm and what the barriers and enablers were to your practice
- What would help you?
- What might support you if it was adjusted / changed or stopped in the system?