



Safe Bathing

This practice briefing aims to support professionals working with children and families across all statutory and voluntary agencies with the key learning from a rapid review. The learning is centered around the following themes:

Theme 1: Support for young and vulnerable parents with neurodiversity in providing care for non-mobile infants and babies

Theme 2: How we consider trauma informed practice when we work with people with additional needs, Including neurodiversity

Theme 3: Support and advice from health professionals in promoting safe bathing alongside safe sleeping.

Theme 4: Review Dorset's Non-mobile infant child protocol.

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The Rapid review agreed that the non-mobile infant child protocol was found to be working well with multi-agency practitioners, referring into the Family Support and Advice Line. However, participants agreed that the protocol could be strengthened by including a section regarding professional curiosity, by explaining that where there is an increase of non-mobile infants and children attending Accident and Emergency, what this means in terms of need and risk for the child and the family. There were 3 incidents where mother presented to hospital during the timeframe under review.

What is being done to address this?

The Partnership are reviewing the bruises or injuries to non-mobile baby and children protocol to ensure that it incorporates frequent attendance to A&E as a potential indicator

Theme 3: Ensuring that there is a robust multi-agency plan for stepping down a child or young person to universal services

There was learning identified in the rapid review around ensuring there was a multi-agency plan for the family when Children's Services involvement had ended, and they were 'stepped down' to universal services.

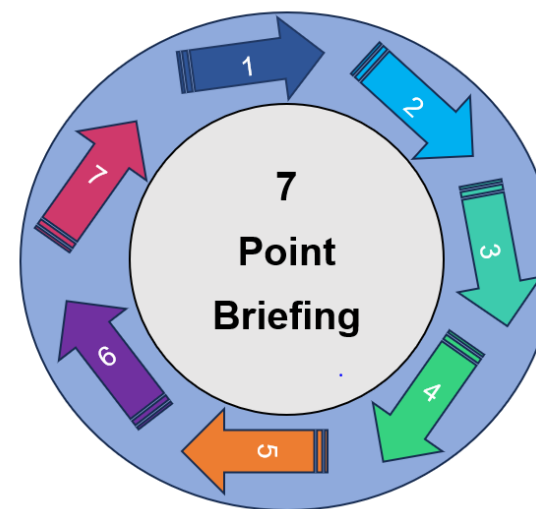
What is being done to address this?

The Principal Social Worker Dorset Council is reviewing the Children's Services practice standards around the quality assurance of the plan to ensure that practitioners develop a step-down into universal services for the family.

Theme 2 continued: How we consider trauma informed practice when we work with people with additional needs, Including neurodiversity

What is being done to address this?

2. An Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) passport to be developed so that a young person with an EHCP plan transitioning into adulthood has a copy of their plan as a passport. The Head of Children Thriving & Education Dorset Council will link with NHS Dorset SEND colleagues to develop this.



Theme 2: How we consider trauma informed practice when we work with people with additional needs, Including neurodiversity

During the Rapid review, the group considered how a trauma informed approach was used in the work with mum and the family. The multi-agency network around the parents demonstrated good professional curiosity and assessment in the risk to domestic abuse. However, in describing some of mum's interaction with agencies, such as attending appointments with professionals, this was not considered through the lens of her neurodiversity and possible trauma that she had experienced.

What is being done to address this?

1. The Principal Social Worker is reviewing the training offer to professionals for trauma informed practice to ensure that the workforce has access to this and are being encouraged to attend.

Theme 1: Support for young and vulnerable parents with neurodiversity in providing care for non-mobile infants and babies

All participants in the rapid review agreed that there was very little evidence that practice and work with the parent/carer was adapted to consider neurodiversity and learning needs. Assessments and analysis did not sufficiently consider how a diagnosis of neurodiversity and ADHD would impact on a parent/carer's behaviour and engagement and how they understood, and distilled information provided by professionals.

What is being done to address this?

1. Safeguarding Children Partnership is leading a piece of work with a multi-agency group around ensuring that all parents are provided with accessible information on safe bathing from birth through to 5 years old. This work has commenced, and the guidance/information will be provided to professionals across the multi-agency network to share with parents. This will also include the development of stickers for parents to stick on their baths as a reminder of safe bathing advice.
2. To provide all practitioners with the guidance on how best to work with neurodiverse children and parents, which was co-created with neurodiverse parents.

Theme 1 continued: Support for young and vulnerable parents with neurodiversity in providing care for non-mobile infants and babies

What is being done to address this?

1. The Partnership business team is drafting a section for 0–2-year-olds on the DSCP website, which will offer guidance to practitioners (and to parents on a different section of the site) around providing support to parents regarding safe bathing and other key safeguarding areas for babies.