The importance of early years practitioners respecting the voice of a child.

The aim of this briefing is to provide useful information on the rights for children after being removed from their parents. This briefing paper will also have links to UNCRC

The 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure' 2011, this is from the UNCRC. In 2011 the Welsh Government made this a law (Welsh Government, 2015).

Article 3

The Welsh Government, (2014) says, that the multi-agency approach should have all practitioners who are involved with the child/children to have an agreed approach to meeting the needs of the child/children. The importance of this is that all departments work closely together to have an intervention in place for the child/children. The department involved may include health visitors, nurse, school staff. This would be a person-centred planning (PCP) meeting.

LAC or Looked After Children say that the strategy sets out how the Welsh Government and its partners will make sure that the education and attainment is achieved to the highest standard of children who are looked after by their carers, strengthen those responsible for looked after children and adequate leadership across Wales, all local authorities and schools. This is backed up with a definite plan of action which will then be audited yearly. (Welsh Government, 2016).

Foundation Phase Framework (2015) aims are to provide and make sure all children and young people have the best possible start in life, to support and help them develop. To support them with social, mental, physical and emotional health and to provide them with a stable education that suits their individual needs.

Article 12

A One Page Profile is particularly important with hearing the voice of the child in schools. This ensures that the child lets you know what is important to them, what they like and what they are good at and how others in their class/school see them. A One Page Profile will then help the staff to understand how best to support the child (Welsh Government, 2014).

The Department of Education (2014) is committed to the safeguarding of children's rights, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They understand that all children and young people have the freedom to give their point of view in anything which concerns them and their future.

Observing children is very important, this will give practitioners information about children and it will help them understand the children better. Using the information will become extremely useful when completing any planning and give a clearer picture about the children. From observation you get to know the individual, their strengths, dislikes and interests. Observing children in a comfortable environment will allow them to express themselves and communicate their feelings more freely and with ease (Welsh Assembly Government, 2008).

Article 19

The Department of Education (2018) says it is everyone's responsibility when it comes to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Everyone who has contact with a child has a role to play and a responsibility. Everything needs to be child focused to have an effect and all agencies must take this approach to fulfil their responsibility for the best interest of the child. For families and children to receive the correct support then all agencies involved in making important decisions must be able to identify concerns, then share that information with the appropriate persons and take prompt action to ensure the safeguarding needs are met.

All educational setting has a responsibility to ensure children have a safe environment for the children to be able to learn. All educational settings should follow their safeguarding policies and report their concerns to a safeguarding officer.

Article 25

Team Around the Family (2018 are a team that support families and make a difference. They work closely with the family involved and provide all the guidance and support they need. Team Around the Family work alongside the local authority. They provide help for concerns regarding school, family bereavement, family separations, behaviour, housing, etc. Coping with a change of circumstances can be quite challenging, they support children and young people to gain full potential and an understanding. They also have a team that support families to keep them safe in their home environment and to support families affected by parental drug or alcohol misuse.

Newcastle City Council (2018) say children may be looked after by members of their extended families and in a variety of different arrangements. This policy is put in place for the local authority to support assessments carried out and also supports the individual needs of each child concerned. Therefore, enabling the correct services to provide adequate support. Under section 20, children and young people can be 'accommodated' with the consent of those with Parental responsibility.

The local authorities have a duty of care to 'looked after children' as set out in The Children's Act 1989 guidelines. There must be a care Plan, placement and a case review put in place before the child is moved or within 10 days of the child going to their new placement. It is the local authority's responsibility to ensure that each child is safe. There is a duty of 'corporate parenting' meaning all agencies involved have a duty of care to the child.

Conclusion-It has become very clear through out each of these articles that the voice and the rights of the child is paramount. Therefore, all practitioners involved with making important decisions for children must listen to the child and consider their individual needs. Making safety priority at all times. They must all follow the Child's rights Wales (2015) United Nations convention. This will give them good guidance in all decisions made to support the children and help them progress.

Reference briefing paper

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