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INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon. On this professional panel, I Nalini, am representing the police service. In my position, I collaborate closely with frontline officers on criminal investigations, multi-agency safeguarding protocols, and child protection issues. I'll be discussing important findings from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) today, with an emphasis on: An outline of the case and the meeting's objective, Key discoveries, Takeaways for law enforcement, Suggestions for strengthening procedures and enhancing interagency cooperation and my goal is to think critically about the police position and how we might help families and children who are at risk.

B. Brief Overview of the Case and Purpose of the meeting.

When a child has died or suffered severe injuries as a result of suspected abuse or neglect, an independent investigation known as a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is conducted. Its goal is to comprehend what went wrong, why it happened, and what needs to be improved in order to improve safeguarding procedures. To determine what went well and what could have been done differently, the review examines the choices and actions of all the professionals involved. CSPRs prioritise learning over blame, are child-centered, and are proportionate. In order to strengthen practice across local and national safeguarding systems, they seek to enhance multi-agency collaboration and guarantee that learning is broadly disseminated. Evidence facilitates this process by carrying out CSPRs and assisting Safeguarding Partnerships in putting lessons learnt and enhancements into practice.

When there is a suspicion of abuse or neglect and the child has died or suffered severe injuries, the threshold for a serious safeguarding case is met. Education professionals must actively participate in the process and learn from these reviews because schools are "relevant agencies." Effective safeguarding practices are influenced by systemic concerns, which can be identified with the aid of models like as SCIE's Learning Together. When there is a suspicion of abuse or neglect and the child has died or suffered severe injuries, the threshold for a serious safeguarding case is met. Education professionals must actively participate in the process and learn from these reviews because schools are "relevant agencies." Effective safeguarding practices are influenced by systemic concerns, which can be identified with the aid of models like as SCIE's Learning Together.

C. KEY FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW

From a police officer enforcement standpoint, the CSPR emphasised the following:

Anybody can be impacted by domestic violence and abuse, which includes dominating behaviours in close or familial relationships as well as emotional, sexual, and physical assault. National guidelines stress that even in cases where children are not directly harmed, domestic abuse frequently has a significant and long-lasting effect on the children living in the household. It is acknowledged that children who witness domestic abuse are also victims. Practitioners must identify early indicators of domestic abuse and intervene quickly since victims may not report abuse until things get worse. National services like Women's Aid and the NHS provide support, and experts should make sure victims are aware of safe ways to get assistance.

Prior to the incidents that result in Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, police frequently have early and frequent interaction with families. They come into contact with children in a variety of situations, such as when young people commit crimes, go missing, or become victims of criminal activity. Police may also get involved when parents or carers engage in criminal activity. Their responsibilities include evacuating children from immediate danger, looking into and apprehending offenders, and disseminating intelligence and information about dangers in the home. Case assessments frequently emphasise how important it is for police to collaborate closely with other agencies, react promptly to concerns, and consider every child's situation in its entirety. Police must acknowledge the effects of child abuse and neglect, spot early warning indicators of harm, and take into account how parental criminality impacts a kid's safety and wellbeing.

D. Educational Points

When working with children and families, professional curiosity entails asking more probing questions, maintaining an open mind, and refusing to take facts at face value. It enables professionals to identify hidden dangers, question presumptions, and comprehend the child's lived experience. Safeguarding reviews consistently demonstrate that a lack of professional curiosity causes warning signs to be overlooked, justifications to be accepted, and cumulative harm to go unnoticed. To challenge their assumptions and make sure issues are thoroughly investigated, practitioners must engage in multi-agency discussions, information exchange, and reflection.

E. RECOMMEDATIONS

According to research, police are heavily involved in responding to domestic violence cases involving children, who are considered victims under the Domestic violence Act of 2021. The majority of referrals to children's social care are made by police, although reports point out issues with inconsistent risk assessments, an excessive dependence on DASH, and inadequate information sharing. Officers claim that their responsibilities are becoming more social work-related, which may have an impact on how they interact with victims. The study highlights the need for more trauma-informed practices, more multi-agency coordination, and clearer guidelines for police in order to effectively safeguard children impacted by domestic abuse.

A thematic analysis of reviews involving domestic abuse was released in September 2022 by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Key findings about how well agencies collaborate to protect children, what constitutes an effective practice in shielding children from domestic abuse, and how services might be enhanced to support children who are victims are summarised in the CASPAR briefing.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) emphasise the need for collaboration between police, health agencies, and local authorities in order to protect children. This work is coordinated by the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP), which creates local safeguarding policy, keeps an eye on agency practices, spreads awareness and conducts Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in cases of significant harm. These agreements directly support the lessons learnt from this CSPR by emphasising the value of effective interagency communication and coordinated action.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review highlights the crucial role that law enforcement plays in identifying danger, successfully handling domestic violence, and disseminating information that safeguards children. The research demonstrates how gaps in interagency communication, inconsistent risk assessment, and a lack of professional inquiry can cause vulnerable families' support to be delayed. Improving information-sharing, bolstering trauma-informed practice, and collaborating more closely with social services, health, and education are crucial next steps. The ultimate goal of the CSPR is to ensure that all agencies, including the police, collaborate to provide safer outcomes for children and families and to encourage learning rather than blaming.

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