

01 Why do we have Case Reviews?

In case reviews, children have either died or been seriously injured, so understanding their situation is vitally important for agencies to learn, to support professionals and to keep children safe. Each case review gives us a way of thinking about child protection practice which is crucial to improving the quality of the work we do with families. The factors which support good practice become clear. This is a short briefing to share key messages from the initial stages of the reviews. It will be followed up with more information.

The Cases

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On behalf of the Chief Officers, Falkirk Child Protection Committee is responsible for commissioning initial and significant case reviews when agreed criteria are met. Our Committee has produced 3 initial case reviews in 2018. Each review concerned a different situation – a pregnant mother and unborn baby died through a drugs overdose, Child D (aged 4) experienced abuse and neglect and Child F (aged 9 weeks) experienced non accidental injuries and a history of multiple parenting concerns including domestic abuse.

07 Our questions for you

Are there activities you can do to improve our culture and practice around child protection?
Can you reflect on our findings and discuss what steps you, your team, your service will take to improve practice based on what we know now? For example;

To what extent do you critically reflect on cases and use supervision?
Do you have the confidence to respectfully challenge other professionals if you believe a child's needs are not being met?
Are you using clear risk assessment methods consistently?

What are we doing next?

Asking everyone to take a moment to reflect on case reviews.

Committee has recommended fuller learning using an approach called "Learning Together" for Child D and Child F. Each review brings out improvement actions to make Falkirk's children safer.

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Other information about ICR and SCR processes and child protection can be found on Falkirk's Practitioner Pages. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/>

03 What did we find?

While the cases were individual, there were themes;

- There was good practice when services made persistent efforts to provide advice, support, encouragement and care despite levels of non engagement
- It made a difference to children's lives when information was shared across agencies and services. For one family their eviction from a tenancy was avoided.
- Children & Families Social Work kept a case open within one team to build relationships and anchor the assessment.

Our Learning?

- Reflective supervision-questioning and challenge support high quality practice.
- Available historical information should always be analysed when assessing parenting capacity.
- Chronologies and other tools are vital for identifying patterns and managing risk. Professionals should bear in mind that child protection concerns may not come labelled as such.

What else did we learn?

- It is important to know how a parent's learning disability, disguised compliance, poor mental health, drug or alcohol use really impacts on their child's life.
- Child protection pre-birth assessments should be started early, before 28 weeks and before the child is born.

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7 MINUTE BRIEFING:
Learning from Initial
Case Reviews (ICRs)