

# North East Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board. Multi-Agency Practice Audit – Thematic Audit – Disability

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*Relationships matter, where practitioners are successful in building honest and open relationships with children and families this leads to better outcomes for the child.*

## **What Happened?**

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The themed audit challenge event reviewed four cases where the child had a disability. Each case had a time for discussion. Auditors, along with practitioners and managers involved with the case came together to consider the audit responses. The challenge event was used to begin to analyse audit findings and propose actions to improve outcomes for children and families across the Child Concern Model.

## **What Did The Audit Tell Us?**

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The audit emphasised the effectiveness of schools in building relationships with children and using appropriate methods and venues to obtain the child's voice.

Professional curiosity should have prompted further analysis of the reasons for non-engagement and the potential long term impact on the child.

The impact of accepting the level of 'just good enough' parenting on children's development was not seen as a risk.

Three out of the four cases featured domestic abuse that had been reported to the police and had been responded to as a police call-out.

Signs of Safety was at different stages of implementation within agencies at the time of the audit, and the multi-agency mapping was extremely useful at the Challenge Event.

Neglect was apparent in three of the cases, but the Neglect Assessment tool had not been used.

## **What Can We Do?**

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1. Make sure that every child you are working with has a voice and they participate fully in decisions that affect them.
2. Practitioners should make sure that they fully analyse all risk factors when working with the case, including reasons for non-engagement and resistant parenting
3. The Neglect Assessment should be used as soon as you suspect a child is suffering Neglect
4. Practitioners should make use of multi-agency opportunities to map complex cases