

North East Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Multi-Agency Practice Audit – Thematic Audit on Domestic Abuse

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?

The themed audit challenged event reviewed three cases where Domestic Abuse was a factor. 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?

Domestic abuse is a complex issue, and often is often parallel to other issues the family are experiencing.

Assessments tended to focus on the parents relationship rather than the long term impact on the child.

Accessing interventions, and completing programmes was given more weight in decision-making rather than the difference the interventions made to the child.

There were examples of professionals taking the 'parents word for it' or believing self-report without checking things out. Self-report should not be used as a basis for decision making.

Information in health records did not always reflect the knowledge of practitioners. This could lead to other professionals such as the GP not having the information they should have about the child.

Some agencies made referrals into MASH rather than Early Help which delayed families getting the help they needed.

What Can We Do?

When making decisions professionals in all agencies should not use self- report as a basis for decision making and consider:

- The impact of the interventions on the child
- The parents ability to sustain changes based on the intervention
- The parents level of engagement