

1. What is a 'deep dive'?

A 'deep dive' is an in-depth investigation or analysis of a topic. It is a review or audit technique to understand root causes and contributory factors where a person has been harmed or was at risk of significant harm.

K, an 11-year-old child was found during an unrelated Police visit, at the family home. He had been locked in a bedroom with only a bare mattress and no light. He was covered in urine and faeces and had sores on his body. K is non-verbal.

Concerns had been raised by his school for 12 months about signs of neglect in his appearance and his parent's requests for help. K and his siblings are currently in the care of the local authority.

2. Background of young person:

K lived with his parents and 4 siblings, all in their school years. He and one of his brothers have high end autism diagnoses. The family have been known to the Disabled Children Team since the two boys were small and have been supported through Child in Need assessments and Early Help.

His Mum had asked for help with K and monthly short respite stays were agreed for K. Due to a lack of available places K was put on a waiting list. He was often absent from school as travel and vehicles could be a pinch-point where blows were exchanged between mother and son. School flagged concerns about his appearance, hygiene, skin care and shoes that were too small.

3. Family background:

K's mother was the main contact with school and services for the children. His father lived in the family home and had poor health exacerbated by alcohol misuse. Third party reports were received of suspected domestic abuse. Two standard DASH were assessed by Police. Childhood vaccinations had Was Not Brought records, which were not shared. Social Care assessment was not completed. One child has type 1 diabetes. Low income meant that energy bars were missing from his diabetic kit and he had no wound dressings for an injury. Mrs K tended to minimise or divert concerns. Across services there was a lack of curiosity about the siblings and how the wider family were managing. There was positive work with one young person and his mental health, including referrals to employment, training and social prescribing for health and wellbeing activities.

7. Key Messaging All Agencies:

There are 4 headline recommendations for all agencies:

- Increase capture of the Child's Voice, their lived experience and wishes
- Prompt sharing of information that includes siblings and family
- Build a culture of professional curiosity across the partnership
- The Graded Care Profile 2 to be utilised as an Early Intervention tool for Neglect and not limited to Child in Need and Child Protection interventions

Child K Deep Dive



**BARNSELY
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4. Emerging Themes:

- * Over-optimism that short stays would meet family's needs
- * Visibility of Father and impact of substance misuse
- * Information Sharing
- * Think Family in multiagency working
- * Voice of the child/ Childrens lived Experience
- * Importance of Home Visits
- * Professional Curiosity

6. Learning / Recommendations:

- Revised eligibility criteria for Disabled Children Team to ensure the service is working with the right children
- Review process for short stays. Driven by holistic 'Think Family' approach
- Assessment feedback to go to all referrers and be open to challenge
- Police recording of children in DASH risk assessments to be tested by audit/ scrutiny
- Clear lines of communication between schools and 0 – 19's link school nurses
- Use Early Help Assessments / Team Around the Family meetings to share concerns, to ensure that all children and young people in the family group are considered
- Records of interventions to increase capture of Child's Voice, their wishes and lived experiences
- Promote the use of the Escalations Policy
- Use of the 'Was Not Brought' policy to be refreshed with GPs
- Recognise home visits as opportunities for professional curiosity

5. Areas of Strength:

- Persistence by school in pursuing support for child K. Positive attempts to engage family & agencies
- Professional curiosity by Police in discovery visit
- Disabled Children Team have implemented changes & training to facilitate short stays and prevent delays in assessments
- High level of engagement by agencies in the Deep Dive. There was professional challenge. Optimistic reflection was avoided.