



## CSE & Missing; Assessing Intervention through the child's perspective

23 September 2016

### About the audit?

As part of the SSCB multiagency audit calendar for 2016-2017 an audit took place on Friday 23 September 2016. The Focus of the audit was on CSE & Missing; Assessing Intervention through the child's perspective' as this is a priority for the SSCB.

The overall goal was to address the following questions:

1. Did all agencies have the same knowledge of the risks of CSE/Multiple missing episodes?
2. Did all agencies understand the impact of these risks of CSE/Multiple missing episodes for this child?
3. Did all agencies have the same view on the strengths for this child?
4. Were cultural needs met by all agencies?
5. Did things get better or worse for the child following assessment/ intervention?
6. Were all agencies effective in the work undertaken with this child/family?
7. Could things have been done better by any agency?
8. Does anything need to happen right now for this child/family?

### What did the audit tell us; What went well...

- The audit found that MASE meetings are effective at pulling together agency information about a child, and that agencies and young people were well engaged in this process.

### What did the audit tell us; what needs to improve

- The panel felt that agencies were not as effective with interventions from the child's perspective as they could have been. The audit found the reasons for this were;
  - Nearly all the children had experienced early childhood fractured relationships with their family, significant life events and agencies identified difficulties with forming good relationships with the children particularly when they were repeatedly going missing. As professionals we know that Children benefit from being able to build a relationship with at least one trusted individual, and being actively involved in decisions about their lives
  - The audit found that children were often overwhelmed with the offer of services and workers wanting to see the child simultaneously. This meant that workers and agencies need to be more co-ordinated in their approach to working with children.
  - Agencies are not necessarily understanding culture, identity and diversity of the individual and their family.
  - There is an importance of the child being safe staying local to child's roots and extended family and friendships when they become looked after
- The audit highlighted that information sharing where young people move across the border into neighbouring authorities needs to be good and there needs to be strong liaison between each agency
- The records did not always explicitly demonstrate what the direct views of children and young people were or how direct work had been undertaken with them. However the audit did find that the case records did evidence there was some stability and consistency of worker involvement and the work undertaken with children.
- It was evident that for one child the worker had made the assumption that the child who had started going missing was being sexually exploited when in fact she wasn't.
- The audit highlighted a further question where children go missing frequently 'Are we picking children and young people up early enough when they start to go missing and this escalates?'



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**Audit recommendations**

1. Assurance by the lead professional (with service responsibility) that all needs of the child are considered with a robust plan about where they will live when they have a significant life change or become looked after
2. MOG to ensure there is a multi-agency process for the identification and intervention is as early as possible for children who start to frequently go missing
3. All agencies to ensure their staff understand culture and identity and what that means for individual children and their family
4. SSCB to be assured that agencies are following guidance and understand the differences between CSE and Missing including how these cases should be worked on

**Following on from the audit recommendations; what can we do now?**

