

#### What happened?

This young person and her mother came to the UK from Iran in June/July 2015 as asylum seekers/refugees in a freezer lorry. She was known to have EB but was poorly on arrival in the UK, possibly due to poor treatment in her home country, and the mode of transport used to get to the UK. The Home Office/G4S placed them a B and B in Wigan but due to the need to be close to a regional centre for treatment of the EB they were moved to a property in Smethwick to be nearer Birmingham Children's Hospital. As neither spoke any English, there was a maternal uncle from Stockport who translated for them and was trying to get the family located to nearer his home so that he could support them. She did not have a school place. She was admitted to Acorns for the last few hours of her life and died in June 2016. Following the child's death there were allegations that mum had been using morphine prescribed for the child.

#### What did it tell us?

- Children should not be considered in isolation and should be looked at in relation to their wider family.
- When children come into the country as new arrivals they are starting from a low base if they have a pre-existing medical condition. There is a need for a full understanding of their need by all involved agencies
- The Lead professional role/ Team Around the Family was not necessarily understood.
- There were missed opportunities to convene a multiagency meeting at either TAF level or CIN level
- Requests by mother for repeat prescriptions for were not triangulated between hospital and GP to check if medications were being over-prescribe

#### What can we do now?

Use independent interpreters and not family members to ensure information is correctly communicated.

Are you aware of your internal escalation process? Where a culture exists that restricts the needs of children, are you confident in exercising respectful challenge?

How do you ensure that information in the best interest of children and parents is effectively shared and recorded with others? Does your agency use ECAF to electronically create, store and share early help assessments?

When working with newly arrived children/young people, how do you ensure that they have been allocated an appropriate lead professional?

**If in doubt ask for advice from your manager, safeguarding lead or Sandwell Safeguarding Business Unit on 0121 569 4800**