

Objective

•The purpose of this audit was to explore the quality of care planning and the extent to which all partners work together to secure positive outcomes for children. The audit included children in need, children with child protection plans, looked after children and children with disabilities. Overall, the audit sought to discover the difference that a plan makes to a child's life.

Recommendations

- Ensure the voice of the child is clearly evident in the care planning process and that their individual needs are always the focus of the plan
- •Improve the level the level of collaboration with families to ensure that solutions are sustainable and able to provide long term positive outcomes for children
- •Ensure that care plans are SMART and child outcome focused.
- Ensure that the involvement of all partners is explicit in care plans and that the outcomes of their work are clearly articulated.
- Develop a culture of working together where the principle of safeguarding being everyone's business is fully embedded
- Ensure practitioners understand the categories of abuse and are able to apply them effectively in their work
- •Work across the full range of partners to ensure effective information sharing that allows the creation of a collaborative chronology of a child's journey
- •Develop partnership working and practitioner skills so that care planning is consistently clear, reasoned, focused on outcomes and demonstrates progress.
- •Improve the understanding of the purpose and process of work with children in need and the quality of that work.