

## MULTI AGENCY AUDIT: CSA IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

March 2020

How effectively does current practice protect children who are subject, or at risk, of sexual abuse in the family environment?

### What are we doing well?

- The quality and timeliness of the initial response to intrafamilial CSA was found to be good overall.
- Where a s47 was required it was completed in a timely way in all but one case and in all cases the s47 outcome was appropriate.
- In all cases the child has received a timely assessment, and this was judged to be good overall (this includes the assessments completed by children's social work, health, CSARC and the CSA Support Service).
- In most cases the interventions have been timely and effective.
- There is strong evidence of the child being engaged in the process at all stages with good examples of the child's voice being heard.
- The therapeutic needs of the child and family are being/have been addressed in most cases.

## What do we need to improve?



1

The SARC should be contacted **by telephone** and a discussion with the SARC Doctor should take place for all children where there is an allegation of sexual harm. **This applies to all children whether they are children in care; already on a plan or not known to services.**

To make it clearer about who to contact and how, the Sussex Child Sexual Abuse Pathway has been refreshed and a set of scenarios e.g. Forensic; Non Forensic; Out of hours etc has been produced: **Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures 3.1. Recognition and Referral of Abuse and Neglect**

2

Strategy discussions should involve all the relevant agencies, including health and in particular the SARC.

3

Once a strategy discussion is completed, the key actions should be circulated within 24 hours of the meeting.

4

It is important that safeguarding processes involving children in care are properly followed and recorded even though the children are safe (e.g. there may be a tendency not to convene a strategy discussion as the child is safe). See pp17 and 51: 'Claire' SCR, Croydon Safeguarding Children Board, March 2017

5

Decisions (made by the Police) to 'Not For Action' (NFA) without completing the actions agreed in the strategy discussion meeting must go back to the meeting for consultation.