

## 1. What happened

A case review was undertaken on a 4-month-old baby who suffered a **non-accidental head injury**. The family dynamics were complex with their father having previously been involved in **serious organised crime**. As far as most agencies were aware, he was no longer in the family's lives since moving to a new area.

Their Mother had a new partner who was living in the family home.

## 2. Importance of information sharing

One agency was informed by their mother that **their father was staying only 10 minutes away and was visiting her and the children regularly**, sometimes staying overnight. This was **not shared** or checked with other agencies who were being told he wasn't there. This is worrying as the case was **stepped down** to Tier 2 Early Help (universal services) **because agencies believed their father was no longer around**.

## 3. Unseen men

The case review highlighted the invisibility of fathers/partners, which is a recurring theme in case reviews and audits.

Their Mother's current partner, who is father to one of the siblings, was not known to many agencies.

## 8. Take away messages

- Ensure robust assessment of risk takes place
- Share information to safeguard the child/ren
- Be professionally curious
- Be trauma informed



## 4. Understanding family circumstances

No one agency knew the family really well.

Agencies must build relationships and share a narrative and picture of the family with other agencies involved so that everyone has a shared understanding of family circumstances.

## 7. Trauma informed practice

Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances experienced by a child or adult as harmful or life threatening. The experience of trauma can cause lasting adverse effects. Being trauma informed includes:

- Understanding that trauma can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development
- Thinking "**What does this person need?**" rather than 'What is wrong with this person?'
- Preventing re-traumatisation

Find out more [here](#).

## 6. Use of photographs

Children's Social Care do accept photographs of physical injuries as possible evidence of abuse when sent with a [Multi-agency Referral: Reporting concerns \(MARF\) \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)

Each organisation has their own policy with regards to whether photographs are allowed to be taken of children's injuries.

It is crucial that organisational policies and procedures are followed.

## 5. Unseen men learning event

A recommendation was made to hold a learning event for practitioners on unseen men. The event recordings are available via the following links:

[Unseen Men Learning Event Part 1](#)

[Unseen Men Learning Event Part 2](#)

[Unseen Men Learning Event Part 3](#)

# UNSEEN MEN

*Practitioner Learning Briefing*

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