



WALSALL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
CASE REVIEW EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Review

K was admitted to hospital with convulsions; he was transferred to a regional intensive unit but died 24 hours later. K was 16 months old. His mother's partner was later arrested and charged with murder, He admitted manslaughter; K's mother was convicted of neglect.

K had presented at the local hospital 8 days before his final admission. He presented with a stomach upset but was seen to have unexplained bruising. Local child protection procedures were not followed; hospital staff did not share this information with the Police or Children's Services and so no further enquires were made.

Findings

K and his sister had been well cared for by their mother. There had been no previous relevant Children's Services history. The extended family had regular contact with the family and had no concerns about Mothers partner.

Action taken by hospital staff on K's first admission was inadequate.

Nursing staff followed the advice of the paediatrician, on his instruction they did not refer K to Police or Children's Services.

The take up of child protection training by hospital staff had not been formally monitored and reviewed

Internal child protection policies did not give clear advice about dealing with internal disagreements about action to take in such circumstances.

Nursing records did not accurately describe K's injuries or explanations given by his carers

Recommendations

WSCB to be advised of the action taken by the Hospital Trust to deal with non compliance with local child protection procedures

The individual responsibility of staff should be given a higher profile in internal child protection policies.

All staff, regardless of their status or seniority has a professional responsibility to comply with local procedures, this should be clearly stated in policy documents and child protection training

Child Protection policies to be reviewed immediately and annually and staff trained accordingly

Quality of recording to be raised with staff.