

# Rapid Reviews: Young Person F



# Background

- Young Person F was one of several siblings and had good school attendance, no exclusions, and no special educational needs.
- However, they and a sibling became involved in criminal activity, violence and anti-social behaviour.
- Police were involved with Young Person F multiple times between 2019 – 2021 regarding violent crime and referred to CSC on 8 occasions with suspicions that Young Person F was part of organised criminal activity. This led to two separate strategy meetings and Early Help once.
- Though Young Person F denied the suspicions they were the victim of a life-threatening assault by other young people in the community resulting in physical injuries and emotional trauma shared by other family members.
- Fearful to go out in the local community due to fear of reprisals Young Person F was protected through a child protection plan after the assault.

## Family Circumstances

- Mum declined use of an interpreter and Dad took this role. Professionals struggled to engage with Mum and though the parents did respond to phone calls they could be guarded about sharing information.
- While some positive progress was made through Early Help, both parents reported their main concern was the behaviour of Young Person F's sibling. This young person was excluded from school and involved in offending behaviour including use of weapons, they struggled to manage the sibling's behaviour.
- The Family worked with a local charity for additional support and following the assault family worked with professionals to try to reduce the risk to the children.

# Learning

- [“It was hard to escape - Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation”](#) is a national review that identifies key factors that make a difference in disrupting criminal exploitation of children and can be used by professionals
- Exclusion from school is a significant risk indicator for risk outside the home. Person F had good school attendance but his brother had been excluded.
- Trusted relationships with children are important – having one person that the child will work with can make a difference.
- Parents and wider family members need effective support in helping them manage risk from outside the home – building good relationships with family members is crucial.
- Though the initial offer of an interpreter was declined this should have been regularly revisited.
- When a professional doesn't agree with the outcome of a referral to CSC they must challenge the decision. The NSCP has an [escalation guidance and procedure](#) available.

# Learning

- Professionals relied too much on information from the family and Young Person F – there is a need to make better use of intelligence and police information to inform risk assessments and plans.
- Evidence of emotional harm to children linked to risk of violence outside the home was dealt with in early help rather than considered as significant harm. Stepping down from Early Help at end of 2020 was premature
- More priority should be given to disrupting perpetrator activity
- Robust, decisive intervention at critical moments in children's lives can make a difference to their long-term outcomes – such as school exclusions, arrests, and physical injuries.
- Concerns regarding criminal exploitation and serious youth violence should be assessed and planned for using disruption methods developed using the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET) Framework. See [here](#) for more information.
- Missed opportunities to intervene and complete an assessment of what was happening in the family.

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