

WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING TOGETHER

7 MINUTE BRIEFING: PARENTAL HEALTH



Background

When caring for a child or young person of a parent with a long-term condition we often focus on the child becoming a carer, the support services required and impact of potentially limited daily living activities. However, we also need to ensure other aspects ie: medication, compliance, support and the impact of this on the child or young person are considered when undertaking assessments or contributing to multiagency planning. Research shows that approximately 10% of children grow up in households where at least one parent has a chronic or long-term condition (Sieh, Visser-Meily & Meijer, 2013) and therefore needs to be considered as part of any holistic assessment.

Professionals should...

- Acknowledge safeguarding overrides confidentiality
- Be explicit of the impact on the patient/client and child
- Be aware other services, records keeping systems and what information they can provide (e.g., GPs)
- Share information in the best interest of the child & family

Definitions

The definition of a long-term condition is a condition that cannot at present be cured but is controlled by medication and/or other therapy (Department of Health, 2012). Long term conditions can vary in severity and therefore impact differently on people's lives. This can depend on circumstances and support provided.

What else should I do?

- Think family when completing assessments
- Be professionally curious
- Consider if all professionals involved in the family have been included in meetings or updates provided to ensure a current picture is gained
- Liaise with other professionals involved with the family

What themes have been identified in local reviews?

- Information sharing
- Think Family
- Voice of the child
- Acknowledgement of lead professionals
- Professional Curiosity

What factors should be considered for children who are identified as Universal Plus or Universal Partnership Plus?

- Ensure contribution of all professionals to multiagency meetings (including General Practitioners, Specialist Nursing Teams, Sexual Health Nurses, Advanced Nurse Practitioners)
- Ensure assessments encompass specialist perspectives on the current situation and the impact of this on the child and family

What factors should be considered?

- Compliance of parents' medication and the impact of non-compliance
- The impact of medication prescribed; will this have side effects which contributes to everyday parenting?
- Self-neglect and the impact of this upon the child
- Think family – what does the presenting situation mean for the child and other family members