

Grey Twins 7MB

This 7-minute briefing is information taken from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

The structure is designed as a reminder to think about 'application to practice'

The briefing does not have all the answers, it is a tool to enable practitioners to reflect on their practice and systems

1. Introduction Grey Twins

Ms KG went to St Thomas Hospital at 20 weeks and found out she was expecting twins, she reported she knew she was pregnant but was concerned about the pandemic so delayed accessing care. At the time of booking she had not registered with a GP.

Ms KG gave birth to twins 14/09/2021 at St Thomas' after concealing her pregnancy and visiting different hospitals. KG engaged with the midwife and health visitor following the births. Health visitor did new birth visitor on 28/09/2021 and recognised Ms KG, and knew Ms KG's two children AB and IG had been removed from her care in 2020. Concerns were around KG's drug taking, her mental health, domestic abuse with her partner Mr RG who is also the father of the twins.

2. Background

AB and IG were exposed to domestic abuse. Ms KG was struggling to cope with AB's behaviour and he now lives with his paternal grandfather.

Ms KG had been living in temporary accommodation at the time, she had been cared for by her grandparents as her mother had mental health concerns.

Mr RG biological father to twins and 2nd child. No documentation from hospital that partner/father attended any maternity care appointments apart from on 24/09/2021

3. Concerns

All Ms KG's ante-natal care was at the hospital, she only missed one antenatal and obstetric appointment..

May 21 KG self referred to St Thomas and answered no to questions regarding safeguarding/DA/ Substance Misuse.

Ms KG denied social work involvement reporting that the two older children were still in her care. No concerns were raised regarding the twins health, however, admitted to hospital 20th - 22nd as one of the twins had jaundice

7. Key areas for improvement

8. Mum provided details of GP and named social worker; these were missed opportunities to contact other agencies

9. Mum was signposted to Talk Wandsworth – if there are serious concerns social care should make contact with receiving service to provide context

10. HV Team Leader identified mum and upgraded the case to Level 2 but did not contact other agencies or be curious why ant-natal notification came through as universal

11. There is no clear Vulnerable Ante-Natal Pathway plan available

6. Key Area for improvement

1. Professional curiosity
2. Why did mum seek ante-natal care with older sibling during pandemic but not with twins?
3. Why there was no registered GP, where was healthcare being sought for the other children in the household?
4. Presentation of mother at face-to-face appointments
5. When health professionals know there are other children at home there should
6. Older sibling was just over one year old – there could have been liaison around HV involvement / other health services and how these were being accessed?
7. Self-referral leads to missing information sharing opportunities with GP

5. Key issues identified

MS KG was careful about information shared so no one agency had a full picture Discharge report – no mention of late booking.

No safeguarding information or vulnerabilities on the Universal Ante-natal Notification.

2nd Health Visitor went on long term sick leave. This vulnerable ante-natal family should have been handed over to another team member.

Appropriate escalation of the case to Children's Services should have been made earlier due to historical risk and vulnerabilities with this family.

4. Key issues identified

Ms KG should have been flagged to the safeguarding team with regards to late booking.

Not disclosing previous social care involvement.

Family not registered with GP.

No curiosity where children were when Ms KG attended health checks.

No recording regarding who was caring for older children when she attended maternity care/being in-patient.

No recording whether partners were present at home visit or enquiry into other children's whereabouts.