



Learning & Improvement Briefing Sheet 6

MACFA MESSAGES 2015/16



Whilst the words of the child are being recorded in case files, the child's voice is not routinely influencing decisions and actions taken to safeguard them.

→ Listen

→ Consider

→ Act





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This Learning & Improvement Briefing consolidates all the learning from Multi Agency Case File Audits (MACFA) undertaken in 2015/16 by an Independent Chair. Themes for MACFA are selected based on performance data and the priorities of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).

A PowerPoint presentation detailing the MACFA process and further findings can be found on the [WSCB website/](#)

MACFA Themes in 2015/16

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Children With Disabilities (CWD)
- Early Help
- Children missing from home or care

Good Practice and Improvements Recorded in 2015/16

- Improvement in recording the voice of the child
- Improvement in information sharing between professionals in Early Help assessments
- More evidence of Think Family
- All CWD audited received respite care
- Some improvements noted for CSE, notably improvement in inter-agency working

Key Findings in Worcestershire

Whilst the words of the child are being recorded in case files, the child's voice is not routinely influencing decisions and actions taken to safeguard them.

- All children at risk of CSE were vulnerable before and were victims of abuse and neglect previously including being witnesses to domestic abuse
- There was drift where there were concerns about neglect of disabled children
- There was difficulty in engaging with parents who had limited capacity to change or show disguised compliance
- Children going missing were vulnerable to drug and alcohol misuse, abusive relationships, criminality and pregnancy/early fatherhood
- Perseverance is required to work with children who are missing and at risk of CSE

**More Information can be found on the [WSCB Website](#)
Information For Professionals/Learning & Improvement Resources page**