

Baby S – A non-mobile child with multiple fractures - a case handled well ; Summer 2023

- Baby S (a boy) was found to a bucket handle fracture and seven others, when X rayed at Northwick Park Hospital.
- A prompt referral was made by the Hospital to CSC
- A joint strategy meeting was held and a joint sec 47 investigation undertaken
- Both parents were arrested.
- Baby S was kept in hospital overnight.
- Baby S and an older male sibling were placed under police protection.
- The older sibling was shown through a CP medical to have no injuries.
- The parents made no comment in a police interview.
- The children are in foster care via an ICO

A bucket – handle fracture are seen in children under two and are indicative of a non-accidental injury



What went well

- Excellent pre-birth health visitor documentation
 - Covering domestic abuse , mental health
- Good follow up by the health visiting team , who went to great lengths to meet with the family and see the older sibling (this was before Child S was born).
- Very good post birth follow up information, covering ICON and further covering DA and Mental Health.
- Good work by the hospital , in making the referral, detaining the baby in hospital to aloe for further enquiries.
- Effective social work practice and good cooperation with the Police

Learning

- The family were Sri Lankan and were not fluent in English as a first language. They were not always offered the services of a translator. This issue is a recurring one and both midwifery services and community health services . **CNWL (Community Health) have sought to deal with this by informing staff through “clinical message of the week”**
- While the hospital took effective action in protecting Child S, little thought was given to protecting Child S sibling, who went home with the father. The sibling was present and so this should have been picked up. A conversation with CSC at the time would have allowed a plan to have been put in place. **The Hospital have taken this on board and have reminded clinicians of the need to consider all children in a family.**
- The father’s records were not linked to Child S. This has been raised as an issue before. **The SCP will conduct an audit of this and related record keeping matters.**