

7-minute briefing

01 Purpose of this Briefing

To share the learning from a child case review concerning the effects on a child of living in a household involved in the commission of modern slavery offences and sharing of good practice by agencies involved in the case.

Modern Slavery Government Guidance – please follow link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

02 Initial action

Children’s social care responded promptly to assess the child protection implications for a child following Police enforcement and alleged birth father’s arrest in connection with modern slavery offences. Child protection processes were put in place quickly based on uncertainty around the responsible adults for the child however the full impact of neglect was not fully understood until the child came into care.

Observations by the foster carer and an initial health assessment identified Global Delay with specific concerns including speech and language, development, behaviour, weight, and neglect

07 Embedding the learning

A Modern Slavery multi-agency learning event was held in Dec 2021 and was repeated in March 2022.

Interpreters should be used on all occasions to reduce opportunity to deceive and improve communication including disclosures of harm – local procedures being updated to reflect learning from this case.

Recent updates to [Concealment and Denial of Pregnancy procedure](#) would now trigger a strategy meeting following a birth that has had no antenatal care.

Child protection medicals should be routinely used to understand neglect, and the Neglect toolkit allows objective assessment.

Always consider Neglect when dealing with Modern slavery.



03 Risks identified – Birth mother had no ante-natal care and gave birth in an ambulance. She had only been in country for 4 weeks and returned to her own country soon after discharge without this being fully understood.

High level of deceit by adults – alleged birth father registered birth with himself as child’s father.

Alleged birth father registered the child with a GP and seemed caring.

Alleged birth father attended all GP appointments and translated for his partner/other adults.

Observations of the home were that it was clean and tidy, child appeared well presented but ‘hidden’ beneath layers of clothing. Interaction with adults raised no initial concerns.

06 Good Practice

Child protection processes started swiftly, ensuring safety of a young child living in a criminal household.

DNA test proved alleged birth father was not birth father.

Initial health assessment identified global delay.

Interim Care Order obtained within matter of weeks.

Child now a Looked After Child and doing well.

Close working with the police information sharing to ensure full understanding of situation – persistence including international enquiries.

05 Signs and indicators

Disguised compliance of those involved and extreme levels of deceit and manipulation.

Communication barriers - how might this support misunderstandings and confuse the picture of the child’s life – interpreters essential to communicate.

Challenge assumptions about family structures and behaviours of adults and standards of parenting.

Changing relationships and dynamics in a household and understanding what this might mean

04 The Lens of Modern Slavery

Focus on the lived experience of the child, show professional curiosity, consider neglect, recognise disguised compliance & challenge our perceptions of the Family Unit.

All assumptions must be challenged – any assessment requires triangulation of information and testing out and checking of self-reporting by adults who aim to deceive.

ABC – Assume nothing, Believe no-one.

Check everything in this context.

Home conditions are not always a measure of neglect

Children will be affected living in the context of modern slavery

7 Minute Briefing Action Plan



Title of 7 Minute briefing

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Name of organisation

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Team Manager

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Name of section and team

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Contact Details

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Identify the learning or recommendations that are relevant to your team and your team's discussion on those points

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Please ensure that you keep a copy of this discussion and plan for your records

7 Minute Briefing Action Plan



What actions have been agreed to improve practice?

What needs to happen?	Who will do it?	By When?	How will you know when this has been done?	How will you know if it has worked?
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Please ensure that you keep a copy of this discussion and plan for your records