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Resources & Services

Review the embedded links and ensure all team members are familiar with where to access the policies referenced in this briefing.

- Ensure all team members are aware of how to access safeguarding support and supervision within their own organisation
- Consider how your team seeks, records and acts on the 'Voice of the Child'

6

Key Learning

When a child makes a disclosure of extra familial sexual abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation should be considered as part of all assessments

[5.11.1 Safeguarding Children and Young People Abused Through Sexual Exploitation \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

[CSE Leaflet Bury - GM](#)

5

Key Learning

Alyssa's voice was not always sought by the professionals involved in supporting her. Research and previous reviews repeatedly stress the importance of seeking, listening to and recording the voice of the child, even when services are being declined by a parent or guardian. Remember: **'NOTHING ABOUT ME, WITHOUT ME'**

[Voice of the Child \(bury.gov.uk\)](#)

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

7 Minute Briefing:

Alyssa



[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)

1

Background

Alyssa was 17 years old when she disclosed a serious sexual assault. A referral was made to Children's Services (CSC), but this did not result in a statutory response. Her mental health declined in the following months, with episodes of life-threatening self-harm. Alyssa had significant difficulty navigating the pathways into mental health services, resulting in a cycle of repeat assessment and re-referral to different specialisms within local mental health provision.

2

Key Learning

Allegations of sexual assault/abuse in children should always result in a referral to CSC and a subsequent strategy discussion, regardless of child or parental wishes. Where this does not occur, involved professionals working with the young person should escalate accordingly via their own internal safeguarding teams.

[Welcome \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)
[Resolving Professional Differences / Escalation Policy \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#)

3

Key Learning

When children and young people are involved in self-harm that results in serious harm or risk to life (i.e. they are at risk of significant harm), a referral should always be made to CSC. This should result in a strategy meeting to ensure any risk assessment and subsequent actions are fully informed.

[Report a child at risk - Bury Council](#)

4

Key Learning

There was a lack of advocacy for Alyssa. Repeated mental health assessments did not result in therapeutic support for her. This should have been challenged by professionals supporting her.

Where there is perceived drift and delay to address an unmet need, professionals should be confident to challenge and escalate. When in doubt, seek advice, support or supervision from your internal safeguarding team.