



## CASE SCENARIO - ROSE AND SAFFRON

### Notification criteria

Intrafamilial sexual abuse and chronic neglect.

### Age

3 and 9 years

### Theme

Intrafamilial sexual abuse, chronic neglect, female perpetrator.

### Case Scenario

Rose and Saffron's family have had a long history of Children's Social Care involvement due to concerns about neglect. It involved long periods of the children being subject to a CPP and stepping down to Child in Need (CIN) plans, and then closure.

Concerns began to re-emerge shortly after the closure of the CIN plans and a second period of child protection planning followed. Legal proceedings commenced and following a multi-agency decision that the Child Protection Plan (CPP) did not achieve the changes that were required to safeguard the health and development of Rose and Saffron.

After the children were removed into care, they began to talk about being sexually abused in their previous home life.

The girls were aged between three to nine years at the time the child sexual abuse

was first reported.

The children's individual statutory care reviews initially focused on their care needs rather than giving attention to the disclosures. Professionals first decided that it would not be in the children's best interest to be medically examined as it would be unlikely to produce credible forensic evidence or would not be seen as needed. Examinations eventually took place more than two years after the children made the allegations.

A complex and lengthy investigation followed due to protracted disclosures by the children, delays in the ability to interview the mother due to health issues, and delays in disclosure of material to the criminal investigation.

There were limitations to therapeutic work that could be started in case the children were required to give evidence in criminal proceedings, and the need for therapy to adhere to Crown Prosecution Service Guidance.

The children were also aware that their mother and her partner were subjects of protracted criminal law proceedings and this had an adverse effect on the children's emotional wellbeing.

The children's mother and her male partner were subsequently convicted of multiple offences of sexual abuse relating to both children. There was no evidence that the mother was manipulated or targeted by the perpetrator although it was recognised that she was a woman with significant vulnerabilities.