

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership



Rapid Review Snapshot 0325 Child L

In relation to a Rapid Review Undertaken in July 2025

Context

Subject: Child L was a 13-year-old girl

Background: Child L tragically died in May 2025, with the coroner determining the cause of death as misadventure. This review examined her life experiences, the therapeutic support she received, and the involvement of relevant agencies. Child L had faced early adversity, and the circumstances surrounding her adoption contributed to emotional challenges, particularly around identity and attachment. She was engaged in both creative and talking therapies and had recently expressed optimism about the future, including excitement for her upcoming birthday and hopes of reconnecting with her birth family.

Key Learning Points

Online Safety and Professional Curiosity

Child L's online life was largely invisible to professionals. She had formed an online relationship with a young adult male in the USA, which is suspected to have contributed to her death.

No professionals had proactively explored L's online activity or safety, despite her openness in other areas.

The review highlights the need for professionals to routinely and confidently discuss online safety with children, not just in response to disclosures.

Therapeutic Coordination

Child L received support from both creative and talking therapy services; however, these services were unaware of each other's involvement. Running parallel therapeutic interventions without coordination can be detrimental and counterproductive. Although this lack of coordination did not directly contribute to her death, it highlights the critical importance of integrated therapeutic planning and robust information-sharing practices between services, underpinned by appropriate consent protocols.

Early Help and MyPlan Use

- Child L had a MyPlan in place, which supported her emotional wellbeing and school engagement.
- The review found no deficiencies in Early Help involvement but recommended strengthening MyPlan arrangements to improve multi-agency coordination and clarity around consent to share information.

Support for Adopted Children

- Child L's adoptive parents were proactive and engaged with support services.
- The review noted the importance of recognising the unique vulnerabilities of adopted children and ensuring therapeutic services are available and appropriately informed.

Impact of Early Adversity

- Child L's early experiences, including premature birth and adoption, were likely to have influenced her emotional development and mental health, increasing her online vulnerability.
- Professionals should consider the long-term impact of early adversity when assessing and supporting children.

Recommendations for Practice

- Promote professional curiosity around children's online lives and ensure staff are confident and competent to discuss digital safety.
- Improve coordination between therapeutic services and ensure schools and GPs are informed of active interventions, where appropriate and with consent.
- Review and strengthen the application of MyPlan processes to support timely information sharing and consent to share clarity.
- Encourage national guidance on therapeutic service coordination and online safety engagement.

Next Steps

All partners and relevant agencies are asked to:

- Share this briefing across their teams to enhance practice development.
- Reflect on current practices in relation to
 - online safety
 - therapeutic coordination.
- Consider how the application of MyPlan arrangements can be enhanced within their service areas.