

## LSCB Safeguarding

### "Bite Size" Learning Scenarios

### Faith and Spirit Possession

#### ●●● to be discussed in Agency Team Meetings

In the LSCB Learning & Development subgroup we have agreed that organisations and teams be asked to use 15 minutes within relevant team meetings 4 times a year to discuss a safeguarding issue. Team responses should be included in your team minutes and forwarded to the safeguarding lead within your organisation.

We hope that this is a way in which frontline staff across different organisations can explore some areas of learning without the need to attend formal training. It should also highlight areas of further learning. We can provide assistance with access to relevant learning materials.

●●● *"Nima recently arrived from East Africa to join her mother, stepfather and step-siblings. Your organisation has noticed that Nima is regularly seen in dirty clothes, has poor attendance at school and appears withdrawn. She has a poor relationship with her step-siblings. You observe that her mother and stepfather rarely focus on Nima, talking instead about her poor behaviour and struggles in the family as the stepfather has recently lost his job.*

**What would you do to assist this young person?**

#### **Points for discussion:**

- How would you make contact with this young person?
- Would you discuss concerns with the family?
- How would you assess this risk?
- What would you do with this information?
- What is your role in this situation?

If you are leading this discussion here is information for you to investigate to assist with the discussion:

**Rapid literature review**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/181526/CWRC-00115-2012.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181526/CWRC-00115-2012.pdf)

**National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief – DfE 2012**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00094-2012>

**London Child Protection Procedures, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2010 – chapter 5.44: Spirit possession and witchcraft**

(pp. 244 – 249) <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/>

**Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, 2010 – chapter 6, page 204: Child abuse linked to belief in 'spirit possession'**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/00305-2010DOM-EN.pdf>

**Safeguarding Children's Rights: exploring issues of witchcraft and spirit possession in London's African communities – Trust for London**

<http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/Safeguarding%20summary.pdf>

**Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (non-statutory, good practice for practitioners) – DfE 2007**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-00465-2007>

**Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service Good Practice for Working with Faith Communities and Places of Worship – Spirit Possession and Abuse**

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Documents/faith%20Communities%20guidance.pdf>

**What is witchcraft abuse? Safeguarding African children in the UK series – AFRUCA**

<http://www.west-info.eu/files/What-is-witchcraft-abuse1.pdf>

**Organisations**

**Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA):**

<http://www.afruca.org/our-work/our-work-in-the-uk/17--faith-based-child-abuse-in-london-project.html>

**Trust for London – Safeguarding Children's Rights Initiative**

<http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/special-initiatives/safeguarding-childrens-rights/>

**Congolese family Centre** <http://www.congolesefamilycentre.org/>

**The Victoria Climbié Foundation** <http://vcf-uk.org/>