



# West of Berkshire LSCB Forum

Disguised Compliance

# Agenda

- 09:30 Welcome and house keeping
- 09:45 Understanding disguised compliance  
Serious case reviews and key learning
- 10:15 Working with disguised compliance
- 11:00 Question & answer session
- 11:15 Networking time
- 11:30 Close

# Definition

The NSPCC defines disguised compliance as:

Disguised compliance involves parents giving the appearance of co-operating with child welfare agencies to avoid raising suspicions, to allay professional concerns and to delay or avoid professional intervention.

# Disguised Compliance and the Importance of Professional Curiosity

[www.safeguardingchildrenewa.co.uk/resources/sue-woolmore-talks-about-disguised-compliance-2/](http://www.safeguardingchildrenewa.co.uk/resources/sue-woolmore-talks-about-disguised-compliance-2/)

[www.safeguardingchildrenewa.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildrenewa.co.uk)



# Serious Case Reviews

## Havering - Child Y, Child X & Child W (2015)

3 school age children in care of maternal grandfather and his wife – Chronic neglect, emotional and sexual abuse

## Manchester – Child Z (2015)

Death of 9 month old left unattended in a bath with 20 month old sibling

## Chester West and Chester – Child A (2016)

Serious head injury of primary school aged child

## West Sussex – Child G (2013)

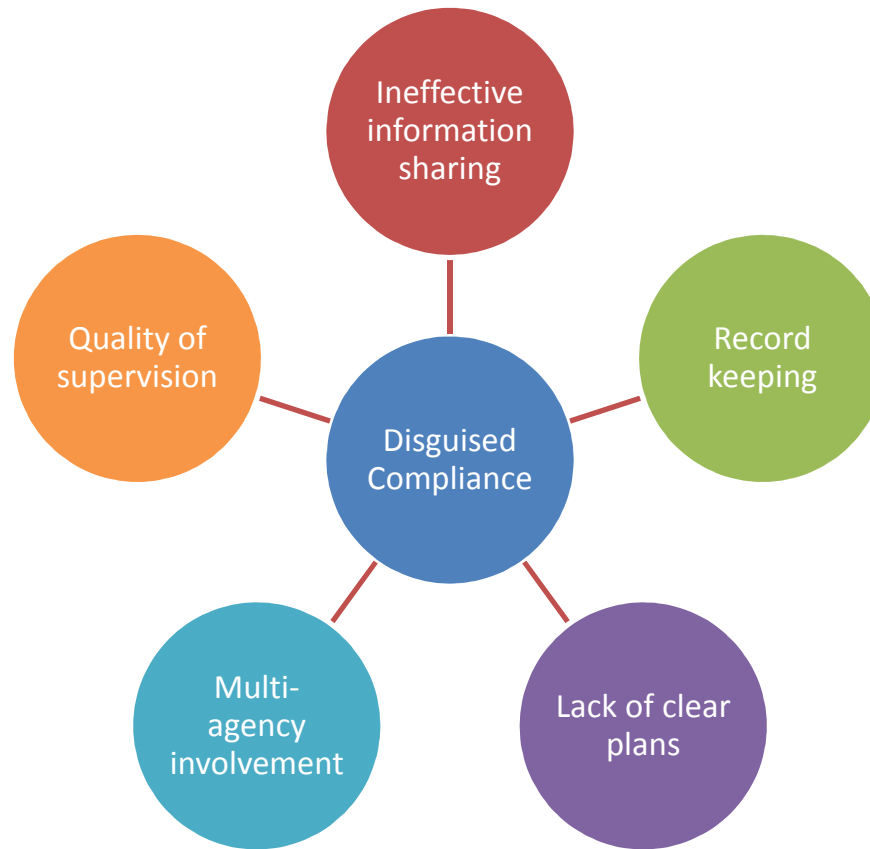
Death of 10 month old due to non-accidental head injury

NSPCC National Case Review Repository – [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository)

# What does disguised compliance look like?



# Contributing factors



# Manchester – Child Z

There is clear evidence of misdirection occurring in the case. There was a belief that the parents were open to and willing to accept help and support. In reality, there was an underlying pattern of missed appointments, behaviour that did not put the children's needs foremost (for example in mother self-discharging from hospital after the first birth), and a reliance on parents saying they would make required changes without enough evidence of what was actually achieved.

Some of this reflects a misplaced empathy with parents being seen to overcome a range of personal difficulties, possibly an over confidence in the ability of a particular model of working being able to overcome and deliver improved outcomes, some professionals being under significant workload pressures and competing demands, not enough organised collation of information that could have highlighted important historical information as well as identifying for example behaviour that was indicative of disguised compliance.



# Working with Disguised Compliance

- Think of a time you have tried, or wanted to change something in your life (diet, quitting smoking, changes jobs etc)
- How did it go ? Was it easy ? What were the barriers ? Excuses ?
- Did anybody try to take charge of you?
- Did anybody else 'known best for you'?
- What effects occurred as a result of any or all of these experiences?



# Working with Disguised Compliance

1. What might Disguised Compliance look like in the work that you do?
2. What challenges to practice does Disguised Compliance raise ? What are the risks ?
3. What works well when addressing Disguised Compliance ?



# Question and answer session

Suggestions for future forum topics?

# Networking and Close

LSCB websites:

[www.readingslscb.org.uk](http://www.readingslscb.org.uk)

[www.westberkslscb.org.uk](http://www.westberkslscb.org.uk)

[www.wokinghamlscb.org.uk](http://www.wokinghamlscb.org.uk)

Child Protection Procedures online:

[www.proceduresonline.com/berks/](http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/)

NSPCC National Case Review Repository:

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository)

