

## Case Study Baby Lily

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Lily was ten months old at the time of her death. She died in the parental home after she had been feeding in the parental bed. She had an older sibling who was two and both lived with their mother and father. The family moved to Suffolk from Essex in 2019. The family had not engaged well with services in Essex and Health services in Essex had had concerns about Lily's mother's care of her. Lily's parents had a history of drugs and alcohol abuse and involvement with the Police. Lily's father also had mental health episodes. Lily had been on a Child in Need Plan in Essex and it had been closed due to poor engagement. Information from Essex about the family and concerns about the mother and her care of the older child didn't get passed to Suffolk Social Care. In Suffolk Lily was receiving support from a Healthy Child Practitioner in the Healthy Child Service. A transfer in visit didn't take place by the Health Visitor despite many attempts to undertake one. Both parents smoked in the house and father also smoked cannabis. A tortoise was kept in an open enclosure next to the parents' bed. The house was described as very hot and cluttered at the time of the baby's death.

## Summary of Learning

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- The need to explore the cross-border arrangements for transfer of cases across services in the Eastern Region.
- To ensure that Health Visitors and Healthy Child Practitioners are clear about the arrangements and procedures regarding working together, communication, sharing information and recording.
- Exploration of current record keeping practice to ensure it includes review and receipt of records and use of genograms.
- The need for all professionals to understand how to be curious and challenging of parents and families in order to ensure they remain child focused and for managers to understand their role in this in supervision.
- To undertake a piece of work on safer sleeping to support both professionals and parents.
- Review of 'did not attend' policies.
- To ensure the role of fathers is considered by all professionals when assessing the risks to children.