

7. Further Information

Genograms <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/download/tools-for-gathering-and-recording-family-composition/?wpdmdl=21621&refresh=68b1cf7d60aaf1756483453>

Threshold Document [Cambridgeshire Threshold Document: Continuum of Help and Support | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

Boundaries [Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)
[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

Lived Experience [Lived Experience of the Child Practice Guidance | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

6. Families Moving Across Areas

When families move across local authorities

- ✓ Transfer protocols between local authorities should be followed to manage risks and to support the family.
- ✓ Cross border agencies should communicate with each other and share information to safeguard children.

5. Recording

Practitioners should:

- ✓ Check the spelling of names to avoid confusion and possible delays in completing assessments and providing supportive interventions
- ✓ Be careful about what language they use to describe and record situations + not minimise behaviours in their recording as this could impact on agency understanding and incorrectly influence professional judgements

4. Disabilities

Where children have disabilities and there are child in need concerns practitioners should

- ✓ Undertake Section 17 assessments.
- ✓ Consider making referrals to the 0–25 Disability Service for support.

Professionals could also think about other potential available support frameworks for children with disabilities.

7 MINUTE BRIEFING JOANNE CSPP



1. Background

Joanne, a two-year-old child, died from a traumatic head injury in November 2023. The injury occurred whilst Joanne was in the care of her mother and mother's partner. Joanne had significant complex physical and medical needs from birth. Joanne's mother had formed a relationship with an adult male, who had recently separated from his own partner. At the time of her death, Joanne's household consisted of mother, mother's partner, an older sibling (6 years), plus two other children (1 & 8 years) from the adult male's previous relationship. His children were subject to child protection plans. Both families had moved across local authority boundaries at a time when they were known to services

2. Good Practice

Some health professionals provided consistent support, particularly community nurses and a specialist playgroup.

Cambridgeshire Children's Services have updated policies to improve oversight and recognition of significant family changes

3. Curiosity & Lived Experience

Practice can be strengthened by being curious about:

- ✓ The family's structure, relationships (genograms) and asking why a family might move to different areas.
- ✓ What life was like for Joanne. What was her daily lived experience?
- ✓ How did her disabilities impact on her life?
- ✓ Why agencies such as CAFCASS were involved with the family?
- ✓ Background of mother's partner and his children
- ✓ Any risks mother's partner might pose to the children
- ✓ Could the mother be viewed as a safe protective parent?

Professionals should explore information beyond 'face value'. Think about asking more probing questions and contacting other agencies in order to gain a picture of what life is like.