Introducing the MSCB Multi-agency Mental Health Protocol
Social Care

• I was aware that I was on a child protection plan but really ‘I got through every time Mother was ill on my own’

• ‘Some social workers I could talk to. But others it was harder, especially if they said negative things and threatened to take me away’; ‘I was still too young for them to be so blunt’.

• ‘Too much trust was put in Father to look after Mother and me. No one asked me about it or how he was doing. There was a written agreement but I wasn’t part of that’.
School

- School had a good balance between privacy and correctness in class. Key people, not everyone knew. ‘I didn’t find it helpful when people pushed me for counselling’.
- B missed school sometimes to make sure that Mother was paying bills and going to her voluntary work. ‘I could have talked to the school, but I thought it was my responsibility to look after Mother’
- B kept a lot of secrets. B would say ‘Mother’s fine, everything’s fine’ when it was not.
- B self-harmed when she had a lot inside: ‘it was a way of letting the pressure go; the pressure of keeping up the image of being fine; and being tired of being upset’
- When the self-harm (cutting) was discovered B was offered counselling at school ‘but it would not have helped’; ‘you just have to get on with stuff’
B was worried about her Mother being discharged from hospital too early. She argued the case with the mental health workers in front of her GrandMother; but doesn’t think that they paid attention to her.

B felt that she was ‘left to get on with it’. She did not think that the mental health team pushed as hard as it could to maintain contact and only came back when things got really bad.

Mental health workers stopped coming to the house – ‘when they had come it had put Mother and me at ease’.

MH Workers
Police

• Both B’s parents could get angry with each other. When the Police came they would forget about B, even if she was the one who had called the police. She would go to her room and a woman police officer may speak to her and ask if she was okay, but would not ask B what had happened to check the versions given by her parents. She felt that sometimes her Mother was unfairly blamed.

• It happened sometimes when Mother stopped taking her medication and then she would just switch, start an argument and start throwing punches.
Think Child, Think Adult, Think Family

• Strategic Agreement - Sign off by Children’s Trust, HWBB, OMM and MSCB
• Think Family Strategy Group
• To develop-Protocols and Policies/Strategy
• Multi Agency training
• Guidance for Professionals
• Service Development (e.g. peri natal pathway/FDAC)
Multi Agency protocol