National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report:

Race, Racism & Safeguarding Children

Introduction

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel commissioned a report to explore how race, racism, and racial bias influence how professionals identify, understand, and respond to the safeguarding needs of Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children and their families.

The report highlights a persistent "silence" around discussing and addressing race and racism in safeguarding practice. This has resulted in missed opportunities to learn and improve, and in some cases has led to the needs and experiences of Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children not being fully recognised or responded to.

Further Information

- **NCSPRP Report** – "It's Silent" Race, Racism & Safeguarding Children
- **NCSPRP Learning Hub** - Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage Children



Methodology

The analysis drew on 40 rapid reviews and 14 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) involving Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children between January 2022 and March 2024. It focused on identifying key themes and examining how learning was recognised and applied within reviews.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Race remains underexplored in safeguarding reviews. While reporting has improved, this is not consistently reflected in practice. Understanding race, ethnicity and culture is essential to reduce bias, address inequality, and ensure effective safeguarding. The report recommends that partnerships evaluate current identify further development needs in learning reviews and safeguarding approaches. WSCP will take this forward through the Race, Racism & Safeguarding Children Task & Finish Group.

About the Children

The review included 53 children:

- 25 of Mixed Heritage
- 15 Black
- 14 Asian

Of the reviews, 26 involved serious harm (including non-fatal assault) and 28 related to child deaths, most commonly due to suicide, SUDI, and fatal assault.

Key Findings (continued)

- Language barriers not consistently addressed; over-reliance on family members instead of interpreters
- Limited exploration of community influence
- Inconsistent understanding of risk across professionals and agencies
- Racism was not explicitly named or addressed in reviews
- Race and ethnicity were not consistently explored or understood
- The importance of creating space for reflection and challenge re bias.

Key Findings

The report identified a number of key findings from local safeguarding reviews:

- There was a limited recognition and understanding of race, ethnicity, and culture in practice
- A poor understanding of the role of faith and religion
- Children's identity and lived experience was often not fully considered
- Barriers to engagement linked to racism and previous negative experiences

Published: October 2026