



Starving home alone kids 'ate toothpaste'

A mother is on the run after leaving her three children home alone and starving in a freezing high-rise flat.

The youngest child, aged 21 months, was just hours away from death. And it is suggested that the other children, aged eight and three, were so hungry they ate toothpaste in a bid to survive. The youngsters were found in the Black Country flat by a council officer on January 30 after three days home alone amid dreadful squalor and without food.

The shocking discovery was made on a Friday and it was feared that they might not have survived the weekend, with the youngest child having a critically low blood sugar level.

Neighbours said when the housing officer knocked on the door, she did not get an instant reply but eventually persuaded the youngsters to let her in by talking to them through the letter box.

One neighbour said: "The three year old finally opened the door. The eight year old was supposed to looking after the others and I heard he had been told not to let anybody else in while the mother was away.

"It was freezing cold and had just been snowing when they were found. They were starving hungry. The baby was strapped into a pram and had not had a nappy change for a long time. The other kids would not have known what to do. We gave them biscuits to eat." The mother was arrested five days later. Her children have now all been taken into care.

About Sandwell.....

- Large multi-cultural borough
- Ranked 13th most deprived borough in England
- A population of 316,720
- 28000 Council homes
- Neighbourhoods have a total workforce in excess of 1400





The Drivers

- Care Act
- Working together to safeguard children
- Serious Case Reviews/Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Locality Working





What we did...

- Identified the levels of responsibility within job roles
- Developed an internal reporting mechanism with a single point of contact
- Developed a distinctive brand
- Conducted a training Needs analysis and developed a robust training plan





Training Approach

- What did people need to know?
- Who were our subject matter experts?
- Did all employees receive the same training?





What we did next.....

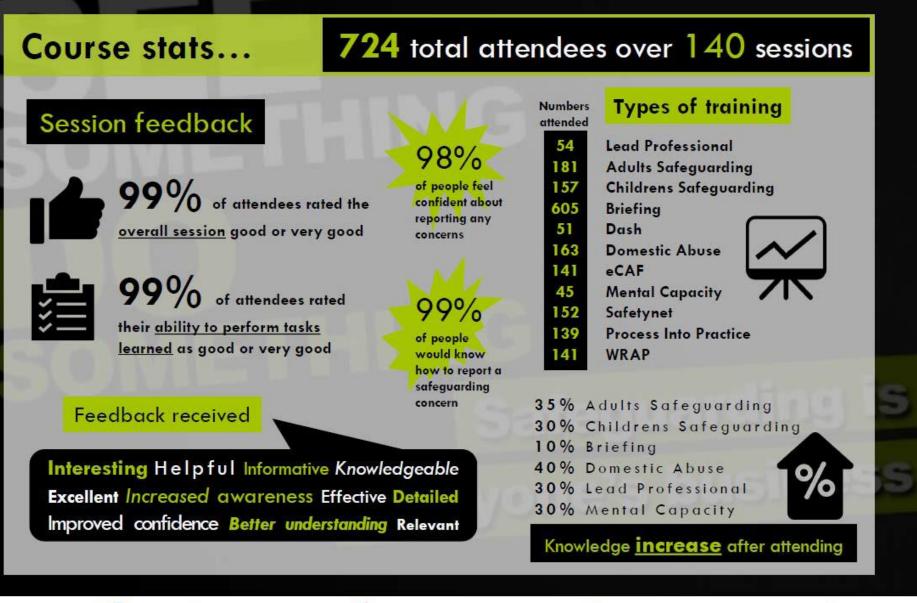
- Created a modular training plan
- Delivered a pilot phase
- Evaluated initial training sessions
- Evaluated phase 1 programme
- Updated Learning Interventions







See Something Do Something Phase 1 Evaluation



















Employee Feedback

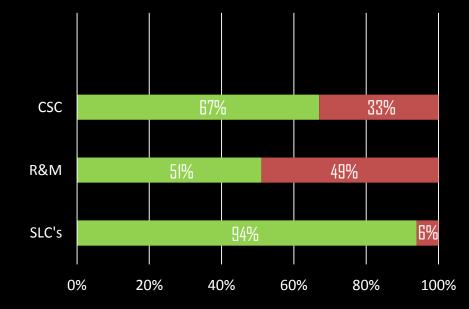


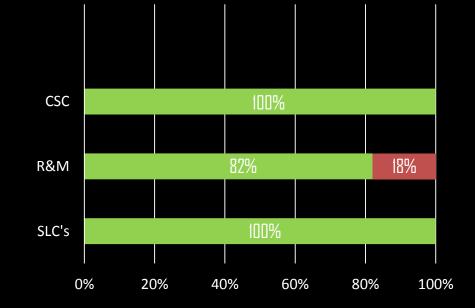
<u>Pre-Training</u>

Do you consider identifying the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults to be your responsibility when carrying out your day to day work activities



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Positive Outcomes

- Number of referrals
- Feedback from staff
- SSAB and SSCB have adopted See Something Do Something brand





Next Steps

- Sustainability
- Future training strategy
- Developing the See Something Do Something programme across the Council and the voluntary sector





Thanks for listening

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Our Story





