



**LEARNING...**  
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# LEARNING IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN...

We are honest about our own learning needs

We are actively involved

We learn in the context in which the knowledge is to be used



# AND WHEN IT SNAGS OUR INTEREST

It uses “real life” scenarios

It “makes sense”

And takes account of *how* we learn



# IT IS ABOUT SELF-DEVELOPMENT

Learning involves a significant investment of ourselves

Tests of learning typically include the information  
required to solve each problem

Yet safeguarding practitioners have to learn to operate  
with incomplete information and ambiguity



# WHAT MATTERS IS...

How we use our learning – including our accumulated  
life experience

It distinguishes novices and experts

And recognises that some learning experiences are  
transformative



# **SO...WHAT MAY WE TAKE FOR GRANTED?**

**The scale is unknown**

**It is devastating to be abused**

**Abuse is well served by disbelief and inadequate responses**

**Private interest pursued at the expense of others has a long history**

**Abuse places severe demands on individuals and services**



# AND MENDIP HOUSE?

Absences – purpose, goals, expertise, support,  
management, regulatory and commissioning attention

None of the placing authorities identified problems

None of the placing authorities asked questions about  
the capacity implications for local services



# **SO...THE LEARNING EVENT TRAILED**

**A better working knowledge of the remit, powers and enforcement resources of agencies**

**Conviction that the persistence of place-hunting by commissioners requires a concerted response**



# **FICTIONS PERSIST**

**Specialist services solve problems**

**QA systems safeguard people**

**Commissioners know what they are buying**

**Decisions about contract renewals are based on hard data**

**Specialist services will take the actions required by...**

**Staff will be brought up short by the recognition of shared humanity**



# WHAT DO FAMILIES WANT?

Ordinary lives

Timely, respectful and relationship-centred support vs  
emergency place-hunting

Sensitivity to people's biographies, support needs and  
aspirations



**THANK YOU!**

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