[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Children L](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/WF%20LCSPR_Children%20L_March%202025.pdf)  Waltham forest 2025

A statutory local child safeguarding practice review (LCSPR) was commissioned in March 2024 by the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board (WFSCB) via the One Panel, to understand child neglect in the context of a perplexing situation.

The term perplexing situation is used in this Review to describe a situation where a child/children present in an unusual way or with unusual frequency

The sibling group of children are referred to as Children L.

Children L demonstrated **developmental delays** (feeding, mobility, language), frequent medical investigations, missed appointments, and minimal school attendance—all underpinned by **persistent neglect, despite being loved by their parents**

**Implications & Learning Points**

**1. Professional Curiosity & Observations**

* HCPs should adopt a curious, persistent stance: if parent-reported concerns don't align with the clinical picture, raise questions.
* Record observations not just medically but also in terms of the child’s behaviour and the home environment, whether seen or unseen. Chronologies and genograms are recommended to plot child events over time [Waltham Forest](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/Learning%20from%20practice_Child%20Neglect.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**2. Recognising Perplexing Presentations & FII**

* Authorities describe *perplexing presentations* as a mismatch between reported signs and actual presentation, with no immediate risk of serious harm, often suggestive—but not always—of **Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)**
* In these circumstances, GPs should consider escalation to a **consultant paediatrician or child psychiatrist** when there remain unresolved or inconsistent symptoms across consultations

**3. Escalation & Multi-Agency Challenge**

* When concerns persist and plans stagnate, GPs should utilise the **local Waltham Forest escalation process**—including raising issues through **Child Protection Case Conferences** if necessary.
* The briefing asserts the need for timely and structured challenge when interprofessional plans do not progress or sufficiently address the child’s needs

**4. Relational Practice & Supervision**

* GPs can offer **relational practice**: balancing empathy, trust, and authority to influence families.
* Reflective supervision and inter-agency discussion assist in building judgement and clarity in complex cases

**🔜 Pathways & Partnership Actions**

**New FII / Perplexing Presentation Pathway (Under Development)**

* Waltham Forest is launching a multi-agency **Perplexing Presentation / Fabricated or Induced Illness Pathway**. It is built upon **London Safeguarding Children Procedures**, requiring escalation to a **consultant paediatrician or child psychiatrist**, as appropriate to presentation type

**Refresh of Local Escalation Processes**

* A refreshed **escalation framework** is also underway, with clearer guidance, redesign of tools, communications, and training around escalation as a proactive practice tool—including for GPs.
* These enhancements aim to enhance clarity and professional confidence in raising concerns and resolving disagreements through established channels, including safeguarding meetings and child protection conferences

**✅ Quick Actions for GPs**

* **Read the LCSPR Children L 7‑minute briefing** and share with colleagues.
* Familiarise yourself with the **RCPCH guidance on Perplexing Presentations / FII**.
* Recall the importance of **professional curiosity**, structured **record-keeping**, and using **chronologies and genograms**.
* Know the **local Waltham Forest escalation routes** for safeguarding concerns, including when to involve safeguarding leads or escalate via case conferences.
* Be alert for the rollout of the **Quality-of-Care (Neglect) Toolkit** and **Perplexing Presentation Pathway**.

Key resources:

[Full report](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/WF%20LCSPR_Children%20L_March%202025.pdf)

[Partnership response](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/LCSPR%20Children%20L_Partnership%20Response.pdf)

* [RCGP toolkit for perplexing presentations](https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=15290&chapterid=962)
* [Perplexing Presentations (PP) / Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) in Children RCPCH guidance](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Czjones%5CDownloads%5CFC59055-Perplexing-Presentations-FII-Guidance-updated%20%282%29.pdf)
* [Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel annual report 2023 – 24](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c97b1dd0fba2f1334cf300/Child_Safeguarding_Practice_Review_Panel_annual_report_2023_to_2024.pdf)
* NSPCC briefing on neglect - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/hukmdrp2/statistics-briefing-neglect-august-2024.pdf>
* [London Safeguarding Children Procedures](https://www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/)
* [Waltham Forest escalation process](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/families-young-people-and-children/child-protection/strategic-partnership-boards/escalationhow-resolve-professional-disagreements)

[How to escalate professional concerns about a child](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/CHILDRENS%20Escalation_Letter%202022%20AA.pdf)

[7 minute briefing](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/7%20min%20briefing_LCSPR%20Children%20L_0.pdf)

