



Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership statement

TS Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Publication date: 09/07/2021

Lesley Hagger, Chair of Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership and Executive Director of Children's Services in Sandwell, said: "This review followed the very sad, sudden death of a five-month-old baby, who is referred to as TS in this anonymised report. Our thoughts and condolences are with their family.

"Although the cause of death in this case remains unexplained and there are no ongoing criminal investigations, the Partnership did still identify relevant lessons to be learnt from this case related to the way agencies work together to safeguard children, and so the SCSP commissioned an independent local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR).

"There was good co-operation and engagement from partner agencies who worked together and contributed to this review which has identified a number of areas for learning, which have all been followed through to the recommendations.

"The SCSP has accepted and agreed to take forward all the recommendations from this Review, including asking the Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education to add to guidance about both routine questioning and assessments in relation to domestic abuse, while also reinforcing the messages about the impact of domestic abuse, coercion and control through our local multi-agency training offer.

"From the Review, we have emphasised the importance to include both parents/carers equally, recognising the crucial role of fathers, and we will be monitoring how this is being implemented across the Partnership.

"We have re-issued the regional procedures with regards to actions to be taken where injuries are found in non-mobile babies with a clear pathway and process for reporting and recording instances.

"Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust has added to its safeguarding checks so that a consultant paediatrician is always involved in reviewing injuries in young children who are not yet crawling or walking. Members of the children's safeguarding team meet regularly with the emergency department clinicians and checks that the right notifications and processes are followed in all cases.

"In addition, GPs request a face-to-face assessment in the surgery following an A&E notification of injuries sustained to a non-mobile child.

"Partners have also improved processes to assess the health care needs of babies where there are safeguarding concerns and where babies are moving or living between addresses.



Sandwell Children's
Safeviewing
Partnership

“As other reviews have highlighted, it is also vital for professionals to understand the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and this is informing both single and multi-agency training.

“Finally, I would like to thank all professionals and family members who have taken part in this review to help partners continue improving the services and support they provide to children and families.”