



Joint statement from Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership and Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership

YS Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Publication date: Wednesday 12 January 2022

This Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) followed an assault on a baby and their mother who both thankfully survived the incident.

This independent review considered systems, practice and processes between partner agencies in the Sandwell and Dudley areas. The primary purpose of this review was to learn lessons and to use the learning to improve and sustain change.

Lesley Hagger, Independent Chair of Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership, and Dr Paul Kingston, Independent Chair of the Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership, said: "This was a disturbing assault which involved a deeply distressing incident for all members the family concerned.

"We would like to thank all professionals in both Sandwell and Dudley and family members who have contributed to this review to help partner organisations continue improving the services and support they provide to children and families.

"Our partnerships accepted and agreed to take forward all the recommendations from this review, with significant work already undertaken."

The learning and recommendations arising from the review are helpful to both Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership and Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership, to improve future multi-agency and cross-border working and safeguarding. Many of the recommendations are already in place and both partnerships will continue to monitor the progress to gain the required assurance that these are all fully implemented.

Actions include ongoing work to ensure effective information sharing across health services, as well as plans to deliver further multi-agency safeguarding training to help professionals with cultural and diversity awareness and understand barriers and challenges that may impact on engagement.

Barnardo's is already delivering the government-approved training across the Black Country on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Work is also well under way to further strengthen and build knowledge and awareness in the community around domestic abuse.

Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA) continues to work closely in both areas with community and faith organisations to raise the profile of how victims of domestic abuse can be supported. This includes a Health & Hard to Reach Manager working with grassroots organisations and building stronger links with partner agencies supporting the community.

The *See Something, Do Something* campaign continues to raise awareness at a community level, giving people vital information on how they can act if they are concerned about abuse.

Both SCSP and DSPP will be making leadership statements at future meetings, as recommended in the review, to show their commitment to being trauma-informed partnerships.

For advice on reporting a child or adult at risk of abuse in Sandwell, visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/reportabuse

If you have concerns about a child or young person in Sandwell but believe they are not at immediate risk, call the Sandwell Safeguarding team on 0121 569 3100 (this number is available outside normal office hours), call West Midlands Police on 101 (24-hour non-emergency number) or contact the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day).

If you're worried about an adult at risk of abuse in Sandwell, call 0121 569 2266 or email sandwell_enquiry@sandwell.gov.uk (open from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Fridays, outside these hours call 0121 569 2355).

People in Dudley can visit safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/tell-us to share and report concerns.

For help and support call Dudley borough's single point of contact (SPOC) 01384 455411 (24 hours), text or Whatsapp 07384 466181 (9am to 9pm weekdays).

If you suspect a child is being harmed or neglected you can call Dudley's children's service's referral and advice service on 0300 555 0050 9 to 5pm Monday to Friday, out of hours please call 0300 555 8574. In an emergency dial 999.

If you're concerned about an adult call Dudley's adult referral and advice service on 0300 555 0055 9 to 5pm Monday to Friday, out of hours please call 0300 555 8574. In an emergency dial 999.

You can also find more information about safeguarding in Dudley at

<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding>

Black Country Women's Aid 0121 552 6448 / www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

See Something Do Something - <https://www.sandwellsab.org.uk/information-and-resources/see-something-do-something/>

Always call 999 if someone is in immediate danger.