



Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership statement

VS Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Publication date: Tuesday 19th July 2022

Lesley Hagger, Independent Chair of Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP), said: "Our thoughts and condolences are with the family of a young baby whose very sad and sudden death in May 2020 prompted this review.

"Although the cause of death is unascertained and there are no ongoing criminal investigations, the Partnership did identify some lessons to be learnt from the case related to the way agencies work together to safeguard children.

"The SCSP commissioned an independent local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR). The SCSP has accepted and agreed to take forward all the recommendations from this review.

"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 review also highlighted areas of good practice.

"Following the report's recommendations, a review of the Sandwell Unborn Baby Network (SUBN) was completed by an independent reviewer in July 2021 and has recently been revisited to evaluate progress.

"A substantial recommendation from the CSPR was regarding governance of SUBN, which is now led by health professionals with updated policies, procedures, terms of reference and membership.

"This will strengthen our multi-agency forum for sharing information and identifying risks relating to vulnerable women and their unborn babies. Fathers are also discussed, and information is shared to form part of the pre-birth assessment, intervention and plans.

"We have also agreed a communications strategy to set out a standard way of completing and publishing CSPRs and disseminating the learning. This will help ensure learning is always shared in a consistent and comprehensive way across agencies.

"We are closely tracking follow-up actions from serious case reviews (SCRs) and CSPRs and, wherever possible, identifying and sharing learning around particular themes such as through 'Learning from Reviews' training, a new addition to the

multi-agency training catalogue delivered in conjunction with learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

“We are also working together to ensure children in need (CIN) cases are progressed effectively and that there is active challenge provided to professionals where needed.

“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.”

Contact:

To report a child at risk in Sandwell, 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 a child is in immediate danger, contact the police by dialling 999.