



SSCB STATEMENT

Following the publication of the serious case review, Audrey Williamson, independent chair of the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB), said:

“Following a serious incident involving a child, we always undertake a full, thorough and detailed review to see if any lessons can be learned and changes made to improve services.

“While an independent review has found that the level of protection and support provided to the child in this case was reasonable and proportionate, it is important that all services involved with the child and the family critically reflect and learn from the circumstances surrounding the incident.

“Most importantly, the child is now being well cared for, is in good health and fortunately has no complications from the injuries they sustained.

“The review said professionals acted throughout in the best interests of the child and that the parents must take full responsibility for the injuries caused.

“The review did say that better information sharing and less optimism about the parents’ capabilities to look after the child may have improved decision-making.

“Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board and partner organisations have accepted the serious case review and its recommendations and taken action in response. We have:

- reviewed and updated processes and guidance for all staff;
- worked to improve pre-birth assessments and the way changes in child protection plans are managed;
- established a new system for family nurses, now known as Best Start nurses, to share information with GPs if a child is placed on a child protection plan;
- set up a single point of contact for GPs within the safeguarding team and new systems for GPs to feed into safeguarding conferences quickly and conveniently with access to all relevant patient records;
- included learning from this case in training for staff, to help identify abuse;
- implemented better screening for managing offenders;
- improved safeguarding training and strengthened supervision for probation staff working with offenders; and
- ensured there can be greater challenge and scrutiny where needed in multi-agency decisions.

“We are fully committed to working together and continually improving services to keep children and young people safe.”