

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board Response to the Serious Case Review in Respect of Child K

Working Together (2015) stipulates that the Local Safeguarding Children Board response to a Serious Case Review should be published alongside the publication of the review report, either as part of the review, or in a separate document. This statement is the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board's [NSCB] response to the Serious Case Review undertaken in respect of Child K.

The NSCB commissioned an Independent Reviewer to lead the review, and who worked in collaboration with a multi-agency review team. The NSCB acknowledges that the review was not completed within the statutory recommended timescale of 6 months. This was due to criminal proceedings.

The death of any child is a tragedy. Baby K was only 13 weeks old when they died from a non-accidental traumatic head injury. We know from the medical and police reports that child abuse was a factor in the death, and that the father was initially charged with manslaughter, although subsequently acquitted of this charge by the Court; no other person has been charged with the offence.

The review has concluded that there is no evidence to suggest that any agency had the opportunity to foresee, or prevent, the tragic death of Baby K and neither was there any significant learning, or areas for improvement identified.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Reviewer for a thorough and professional approach, and to thank Board members and practitioners, whose leadership and contributions to the process, and associated discussions, have helped us to continue to improve on what we are doing to safeguard children and young people in Newcastle.

Independent Chairperson, Helen Lamont.



Helen Lamont.