

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Ref no: BSCB 2017-18/02

Publication of learning from a Serious Case Review (SCR)

Date: 5th October 2021

Details:

Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership, said, "Lilly's death at 21 months at the hands of her Special Guardian's partner in November 2017, is profoundly sad. Sean Saddler, the person responsible for Lilly's murder, has now been brought to justice. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in March 2021. I offer condolences to her family and loved ones on behalf of the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership. I know they continue to feel her loss intensely. Publication of the independent Serious Case Review that we commissioned to understand and learn from what happened has been delayed by protracted criminal proceedings. It provides a detailed and thoughtful analysis of events which merits reading in full. I'd like to highlight two issues: firstly, the importance of adult-orientated services sharing information with those supporting children and families, and secondly the value of professionals having open and curious minds. This second issue specifically includes following safeguarding guidance when caregivers present with repeated bruising on their young children. I am assured by the postscript to this report which evidences the actions taken by all agencies following the report's findings, especially its acknowledgement of the important and positive experience that Special Guardianship can provide for many children.

We have produced a Learning Bulletin for professionals as a result of this report and I intend to request a meeting with the Local Family Justice Board to explore the learning and insights gained from Lilly's short life and sad death."

ENDS

Note to editors

The purpose of an SCR is to establish whether any lessons can be learnt by professional services to help ensure children are better protected in future.

The SCR is published on the Partnership's website (lscpbirmingham.org.uk/serious-cases). A copy can be downloaded from the table on the webpage (Case Reference BSCB2017-18/02). A copy has been forwarded to the National Case Review Repository hosted by the NSPCC.

If you are concerned about a child living in Birmingham, please ring Birmingham Children's Trust's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888.