



BSCP CONTINGENCY STATEMENT

BSCB 2015-16-03

Ref no.: BSCB 2015-16/03

Issued: On Request

Publication of learning from a Serious Case Review

Date: 18th November 2020

Details:

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) has published a Serious Case Review in respect of two young children who sustained non-accidental injuries in the autumn of 2015. The children, who were both under one year old and had health concerns, were being cared for by their teenage parents at the time. Both parents experienced troubled childhoods and were brought up in home conditions where violence and parental drug and alcohol abuse featured. As a result, their families were known to agencies in Birmingham.

The review focuses on identifying key learning for front-line professionals working with and supporting families with complex needs. Although it has not been possible until now to publish the findings from this case, action was taken very early on to embed the emerging learning from the review. The police investigation was complex and protracted and has only recently concluded, nearly five years after the original offences occurred. The mother pleaded guilty to two counts of child cruelty and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. Most importantly, both children are doing well, living with their adopted parents.

The interim findings from the Serious Case Review were presented to the former Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board in November 2016. The review made nine key recommendations which focused on improving early help and support to vulnerable families, enhancing health guidance around discharge planning and visits for new births and more timely information sharing by agencies to enhance decision making and intervention for families in need of support. The Board endorsed all the recommendations and the detailed action plan to ensure effective implementation of the learning. All actions and recommendations have now been implemented.

Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership, said, *“The former Safeguarding Board in 2016 acted quickly to implement the learning from this case. As I reflect on progress during the last five years much has changed across the partnership landscape, with mergers and new organisations created that have made such a positive impact on improving services for children in the city. Birmingham Children’s Trust and Birmingham and Solihull NHS Clinical Commissioning Group were launched in April 2018. We have a Children’s Advice and Support Service, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, and Early Help and Support for children, parents and families is now delivered across the city through ten locality-based hubs. The learning from this Serious Case Review has helped shape and influence the development of how we work together to combat childhood neglect in Birmingham, culminating in the launch of the Childhood Neglect Strategy 2019/22 at our conference in June 2019. The strategy and action plan sets out how partners will be working together to tackle childhood neglect. However, there is still more to be done, as we strive to continually improve how we work together to safeguard, support and protect children and young people in Birmingham.”*

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 Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership website (lscpbirmingham.org.uk/serious-cases). A copy can be downloaded from the table on the webpage: Case Reference BSCB2015-16/03. A copy has also been forwarded to the National Case Review Repository hosted by the NSPCC, National Panel and the ‘What Works’ Centre.

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