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Publication of learning from a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

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Today we are publishing a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review where a three-month-old baby died in 2019 as a result of “wilful neglect”. The parents were convicted of exposing their children to Class A drugs.

This very sad case shares features with other reviews including the importance of professionals sharing information; understanding and listening to young children; recognising the impact of drug misuse and supporting troubled families in temporary accommodation. The review recognises some good practice. At the same time, it reminds us that the focus of work with families must be on the lived experience of children, however likeable, engaging and plausible their parents appear. In this case, crucial information about criminality, drugs, pregnancy and deprivation experienced by the older children, was not known by the professionals who needed to know. Never assume that other agencies are aware; effective information sharing is crucial to safeguard children.

The report has been delayed by the pandemic and lengthy criminal proceedings. However, learning for agencies and the Safeguarding Partnership system has been acted upon and all Action Plans implemented. The learning from this review reinforces the work we are undertaking to tackle childhood neglect in Birmingham. The report is accompanied by a succinct Learning Lessons Briefing Note, and we are hosting a Webinar to share emerging good practice and learning from this review with front-line practitioners.

**Penny Thompson CBE,
Independent Chair, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Note to editors

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

The LCSPR is published on the Partnership’s website (<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk>). A copy can be downloaded from the table on the webpage (Case Reference BSCP2019-20-01). 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.



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