



Derby and Derbyshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

BDS18 – Addendum

This Review report was agreed by the Derbyshire Serious Case Review (SCR) Panel and endorsed for publication by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board on 15 March 2019. At that point, whilst efforts had been made to engage Child C's mother on at least 3 occasions to enable her to contribute to the report (see recommendation below), engagement had not been forthcoming and the decision was made to publish the report, so that required deadlines were met. It was published on the DSCB website on 5 August 2019.

Subsequent to the publication, mother did make contact through her own mother and arrangements were made for a meeting between mother, grandmother, report author and the Independent Chair on 4 November 2019. This proved to be a very frank and fruitful meeting, as a result of which certain elements in the original report have been revised and this addendum added, to reflect the input from mother. What is now published has been agreed by the Independent Chair of the SCR Panel, as a balanced version of the circumstances of this sad case, informed now by the experiences of mother.

As requested, I have checked concerns regarding contact on or near anniversaries/birth dates and the accuracy of the content in the report and can confirm that I am satisfied with the report which precedes this addendum.

The findings and recommendations of the original report were unchallenged and are unchanged. The preparation of the report has been acknowledged by mother and grandmother as being in accordance with the terms of reference set by the Safeguarding Children Board. However, arising from the discussion with mother and grandmother, the following additional recommendation will be presented to the DSCB (now the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership) for implementation.

It is acknowledged that contact with mother in respect of the writing and publication of the report was attempted via a number of formal letters. However, it is acknowledged also that it would be helpful to include with such letters an explanatory leaflet, setting out the purpose and the process of the review and its importance for future practice. Examples of such information leaflets exist elsewhere and it would be good practice to adapt them for local use.

Recommendation: given the importance of engaging bereaved parents, especially birth mothers, in the review process because of the vital insight and learning they can provide, recognition should be given to the preparation and enclosure of an explanatory leaflet with any correspondence seeking engagement, so that bereaved parents are fully informed about the review process, its importance and its implications for wider practice and future work.

Steve Atkinson
Independent Chair
Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board (now Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership)
November 2019