



## **Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

### **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review: ZDS22**

#### **Summary of Progress**

##### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A local child safeguarding practice review was commissioned by Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership into the circumstances surrounding the death of a child known as "Zac". The review was completed in July 2024.
- 1.2 Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership offer sympathies to all those affected by the tragic death of "Zac".
- 1.3 The review focuses on Early Help arrangements including oversight and supervision procedures, Elective Home Education processes and the Joint Agency Response following the death of a child. The review sets out recommendations relevant to these areas which agencies are required to address to improve practice when supporting and safeguarding children and their families.
- 1.4 Agencies involved in the review have provided an update of the progress already made since "Zac's" death, which is outlined below and evidenced further by findings from an independent Ofsted inspection of Derbyshire Local Authority Children's Services undertaken in November 2023 and published in January 2024:

##### **2. Early Help Arrangements**

- 2.1 Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership have audited Early Help processes and have circulated the findings to agencies to support them in improving practice in this area. A briefing has been developed to support practitioners in producing robust and effective early help assessments and plans.

2.2 The Ofsted inspection of Derbyshire Local Authority Children's Services undertaken in November 2023 found that: *"threshold of risk, need and harm to children are understood and applied by experienced and knowledgeable workers from across the partnership"*.

### **3. Elective Home Education**

3.1 The local authority in Derbyshire has implemented new systems, strengthened processes and improved arrangements for staff induction and training. This addresses the findings of the review where there was an identified need to better support and monitor vulnerable children who are not in a usual school setting. The Ofsted inspection of Derbyshire Local Authority Children's Services undertaken in November 2023 also confirmed improvements in this area.

### **4. Joint Agency Response**

4.1 Senior leaders with a responsibility for reviewing child deaths from the Integrated Care Board, Local Authority and Police across Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are currently reviewing how the Joint Agency Response guidance can be strengthened to promote effective cross border working in situations specific to "Zac's" case when a child has died following an unwitnessed injury.

The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to obtain assurance that the recommendations set out in the review are being progressed by agencies and that changes are being implemented with a focus on establishing the improved impact on children and their families.

### **Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership July 2024**

The Ofsted Inspection of Derbyshire Local Authority Children's Services, published in January 2024 can be viewed here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50237006>