



Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership Response to the Serious Case Review in
Respect of Child X

Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership has published a Serious Case Review into the tragic death of Child X and his mother in December 2016. The Serious Case Review has identified key findings in respect of safeguarding practices in 2015 and 2016. These are accepted by the Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adult Board and work has been completed, and is continuing, to embed the learning from this case across all Safeguarding Partnership agencies. Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of Child X and his mother.

Finding 1: Information sharing within police systems and across police boundaries did not always work well and resulted in information about support for Mother and risks to Child X becoming lost in the system.

The Metropolitan Police and Thames Valley Police have addressed the areas of learning identified in this review.

Finding 2: Assessments of Mother's wellbeing were too often based on self-reported information and there was a lack of focus on the potential impact of Mother's alcohol use and mental health on her role as a parent and a nurse.

Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adult Board have implemented a joint Practice Development Forum to ensure that learning from adult and child focussed reviews is effectively disseminated throughout both safeguarding networks. This will include joint multi-agency safeguarding learning events. The next Safeguarding Learning Event will support the further development of practitioner capacity to be professionally curious and to understand the impact of adult issues on parenting capacity.

The Hillingdon Local Authority Designated Officer is available to provide advice and training to all partners around issues of safer recruitment.

Finding 3: The involvement of the family in private law proceedings diverted attention away from the role of Children’s Social Care in carrying out assessments where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm.

All social care staff have been provided with guidance around the role of Children’s Social Care where there are concurrent private family law proceedings, this has been revisited as part of the rolling programme of support and professional development facilitated by the Children’s Principal Social Worker.

Finding 4: Information held by friends and family needs to be taken seriously and support given to help them share information relevant to the safety of a child.

Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership supports the work of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in providing a referral pathway for members of the public to report concerns about child welfare if they do not feel comfortable to contact statutory agencies. A co-ordinated programme of awareness raising activity will be undertaken to highlight this service. Frontline practitioners have been provided with additional training and support to ensure that any concerns raised about a child are considered fully, irrespective of the source.

Finding 5: Although the notion of “Think Family” has been promoted over several years there continues to be a divergence between the intellectual acceptance that the needs of children are intimately linked with the needs of adults in their lives, and the way in which services respond.

Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership provides comprehensive multi-agency training across the adults and children workforce. This training is quality assured on a regular basis, all trainers are aware of the need to ensure that the impact of adult issues on children is considered. The Safeguarding Partnership has launched a joint Adult and Child Practice Development Forum to ensure that learning is embedded throughout the adult and child safeguarding workforce. The impact of this learning is monitored systemically through a programme of single and multi-agency audits and individual practitioner supervision.