

Child N & O

Statement – Jim Gamble QPM, Independent Chair CHSCB

The shocking circumstances of Child N's death and the way in which Child O sustained such serious injuries are hard to read and harder to understand. Whilst the dreadful events involving the children took place back in March 2017, my thoughts remain with their mother, who has shown such courage throughout. I am also reminded of the bravery and dedication of our emergency services, who responded with such professionalism in their attempts to help.

With regards to the Serious Case Review (SCR) itself, the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board has accepted the report and its findings in full. Of significance to our collective learning is that this case truly reflects that not all tragedies involving children being killed or seriously hurt can be predicted or prevented.

Indeed, when looking into the lives of the parents, nothing distinguished this couple from many others in similar circumstances and from the limited professional involvement there was, good communication and good practice was evident. There were simply no warning signs that would have alerted anyone to father's brutal intentions.

Notwithstanding this the SCR does illustrate a number of key learning points for the safeguarding system: the importance of understanding the role of fathers, the need to actively consider the risk of domestic abuse in all routine enquiries and the need for a wider understanding about the risks associated with those who seek to control and coercively control others.

As a partnership, we will strive to ensure that these lessons are firmly embedded in our professional network and within the communities in which we work.