



## **Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership publication**

### **SD Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review**

**Publication date: Wednesday 20 March 2024**

Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership has today (Wednesday 20 March 2024) published a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) which was commissioned after a 17-year-old, referred to as SD\* in the report, was seriously injured in an incident.

Sally Roberts, Chief Nursing Officer/Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Black Country Integrated Care Board and Chair of the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) Executive Group, said: "This is a very sad case where a young person in Sandwell sustained life-changing injuries. Our thoughts are with him and his family as we publish this review.

"As a partnership, we have looked closely at agencies' interactions with SD and his family over a number of years to identify areas where agencies have worked effectively together and where learning is required. As a result, we have strengthened the way we work together and share information between services and organisations.

"The report details improvements agencies have made since the incident. Partner organisations have welcomed the review's recommendations and are working to embed the learning from this case into their day-to-day working practices.

"I would like to thank all professionals who have taken part in this review. We are committed to helping all partners to continue improving the services and support they provide to children and families to achieve better outcomes."

#### **Learning from the case has included:**

- The need to carefully consider the experiences of children where several different agencies have been involved with their families and how this may affect their perceptions of what services can offer them.
- The importance of not viewing some young people as older than they are – known as 'adultification', as in some cases they may be being exploited.

#### **Key actions on recommendations:**

- Training reviewed and strengthened to improve the role of the Lead Professional in supporting children and families and how Early Help support should be co-ordinated across multiple agencies.

- Improved awareness through partnership briefing of 'adultification', which links to new cultural competency training.
- Increased focus on staff from Education to undertake the Graded Care Profile 2 training to improve recognition and response to early indicators of neglect.
- Information sharing protocol agreed to enable relevant council teams, including adult social care, to have read-only access where appropriate to children's services case files.
- Ongoing work to ensure partner agencies can access key Early Help information about each other's involvement with children and families.
- Ensuring the use of ecomaps (network/relationship diagrams) and genograms (similar to family trees) to help understand and support individuals and families.

\*The LCSPR is anonymised in line with national guidance.

**Contact:**

To report a child at risk in Sandwell, call the Sandwell safeguarding team on 0121 569 3100 (this number is available outside normal office hours) or call West Midlands Police on 101 (24-hour non-emergency number). Or you can contact the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 (free service, 11am-3pm Monday-Friday) or email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or [use the report abuse online form](#) at any time).

If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police by dialling 999.