

Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership statement JS Serious Case Review

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Lesley Hagger, Executive Director of Children's Services in Sandwell, said:

"Following a serious incident involving a child, we always undertake a full, thorough and detailed review to see what can be learned to help improve services.

"This was a very sad case in which a six-month-old baby suffered serious physical harm while in the care of their parents in January 2017.

"Most importantly, the child is now being well cared for in a safe environment.

"This independent review established that professionals involved in this case could not have expected the child would be physically harmed.

"However, there were six recommendations for agencies in light of this case around safeguarding services.

"Since the case, partner organisations have responded and taken the following action:

- improved pre-birth procedures and assessments;
- set up an Unborn Baby Network where professionals from different organisations work together to identify antenatal vulnerable women early, share information and ensure a joint understanding of thresholds for pre-birth assessments;
- implemented tools and training to help practitioners identify the signs of neglect and know how to respond;
- confirmed health agencies' policies around missed appointments;
- improved safeguarding training and processes for housing staff; and
- raised awareness of safe handling and storage of medicines via GPs, pharmacies and health visitors.

"It's vital we learn from serious case reviews to make sure organisations provide effective support to families who need it."