

LSCP Statement for the 'David' Serious Case Review

The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership wish first to acknowledge the tragic life changing incident that has led to this Serious Case Review with such a significant impact on all involved. Our thoughts are with the young victim and their family.

In accordance with the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, a Serious Case Review was initiated by the former three borough Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The Serious Case Review has identified key findings which our safeguarding partners have accepted in full. The partnership will share this important report with colleagues at a national level including central government departments and national bodies, particularly the Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to identify the learning and work together to seek actions to address the findings.

The findings include learning points for the local partnership and for the wider safeguarding system to consider at local, regional and national levels. Important messages include:

- The national shortage of specialist community provision and residential therapeutic treatment services for children and young people with very complex high risk behaviours is already well documented. Findings from this review identify the urgent need to find national and local solutions to address this shortage, including prioritising resource for services for this relatively small number of children and young people.
- Joint working arrangements for clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, mental health and other service providers need strengthening, with appropriate multiagency quality assurance framework in place to ensure that pathways, processes and services are available to meet the needs for autistic children and young people and for those with very complex high risk behaviours.
- There is need for diagnostic complexity and ethical sensitivity in multiagency working with apparent emerging personality disorder amongst children. This requires careful thought of how we enable a confident workforce across police, health and social care to work closely with families in this area.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to make improvements across police, health and social care in the delivery and co-ordination of support for autistic children and children and young people with complex high risk behaviours. We remain committed to seeking improvements locally and nationally to ensure that families with children and young people with complex needs have access to the appropriate support.

NOTE:

This Serious Case Review was originally commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership for Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster City councils.

In April 2021, this partnership was disbanded and replaced by two LSCPs: Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster LSCP; and Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP.

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