



Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board

Media statement

Embargoed until 6.00 am 18 February 2015

Child K Serious Case Review

Keith Makin, Independent Chair of the Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board, said:

“Blake was only seven years old when he died in 2011. His family were well known to local services in Southampton as a result of domestic abuse and there had been long-term concerns about Blake’s safety.

“The Serious Case Review highlighted several missed opportunities to help Blake and a number of significant failures in our child protection system. The errors made in this case were simply unacceptable.

“On behalf of the Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board, along with colleagues from the Council, Police and Health services in the City, I would like to say how sorry we are that Blake did not get the help that he needed.

“Our local safeguarding services in Southampton have significantly improved since Blake’s tragic death. Over the past two years we have been working to transform child protection services but we are not complacent. Progress has been made but our work is not yet finished, we are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that children in Southampton today are safe from abuse and harm.”

Ends

The Child K Serious Case Review and the LSCB’s Learning & Improvement report are available online at www.southamptonlscb.co.uk

Keith Makin was appointed as the Independent Chair of the Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board in October 2013. He is a qualified social worker and has held senior positions in social care services for over 30 years. He has worked as a Director of Social Services and as Chief Executive of an independent childcare organisation.