

Statement from Jenny Myers, Independent Chair of Leicester Safeguarding Children Board.

Today we are publishing two historical serious case reviews (SCRs) which were commissioned by the previous independent chair of Leicester City Safeguarding Children's Board in 2016 (LSCB). They relate to two children, who we will call Nadiya and Robyn.

Serious case reviews are sometimes carried out when a child or young person dies or is seriously injured, neglect or abuse is suspected and there are concerns about the way agencies worked together to keep them safe. They are written by independent authors and look at the role played by any professionals involved with the child and their family, to see if lessons can be learned and ways of working can be improved.

These reviews are not linked, but both relate to babies who were taken to hospital with injuries when they were too young to have harmed themselves accidentally. As both reviews were carried out over the same period of time, we are publishing them together.

Both reviews tell distressing stories of children harmed by parents who should have been protecting them, and this has saddened us all. I am pleased to say that both children and their siblings are now in safe and appropriately assessed care.

What we have done in response to these reviews

All the agencies involved in these reviews accept the findings of these reports and have already implemented the changes they recommend.

Since these cases there has been a major overhaul of the LSCB's policies and procedures, reflecting the need for all partners to work more closely together to identify early on when children are at risk.

The guidance on non-accidental injuries in babies, pre-birth assessments and neglect has all been updated, while robust procedures have been put in place to check on the progress of child protection plans. The LSCB has also hosted learning events for other agencies.

Jenny Myers, Independent Chair of Leicester Safeguarding Children Board, said: “We are committed to safeguarding Leicester children and recognise that opportunities were missed by some agencies which should have acted sooner to protect Nadiya and Robyn.

“The non-accidental injury of any child is shocking but even more so when it concerns such young children. We are saddened by their distressing stories and the agencies involved have accepted that they could have acted sooner. Thankfully, both these children are now safe and well.

“Since these incidents, we have improved our policies, procedures and communication processes between all the partners that make up the LCSB. The LSCB is satisfied that the agencies which were involved with these families have acted on the recommendations of these reviews.

“Protecting children is complex and difficult but please be assured that all agencies remain committed to continuing to work together to strengthen arrangements for protecting children in Leicester and continue to make improvements”

(ends)