



## **Derby Safeguarding Children Board**

### **Media Statement: Serious Case Review FD17**

Derby Safeguarding Children Board today publishes its serious case review report into the case of life threatening neglect of a nine year old boy, known for the purpose of the review as FD17. In November 2016 the child's parents failed to seek medical attention for burns, which are thought to have been caused by scalding from hot water in a bath or shower

Following this incident, several concerns were also identified about the care of the youngest child, a new-born baby, who had signs of significant neglect.

In July 2017 at Derby Crown Court the child's mother and father were charged with the neglect of their nine year old son and his baby brother to which they pleaded guilty, they were given 20-month prison sentences, suspended for two years.

The aim of the serious case review was to examine closely the work of individual agencies and their inter-agency process.

Christine Cassell, Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board says:

"Firstly I would like to say how pleased I and everyone involved in this review are that the little boy who suffered severe scalding has now made a good recovery.

The independent review has highlighted that this was a complex and challenging case for professionals. There were communication issues and the parents were not always open and honest in sharing information. The report notes the strenuous efforts of professionals to respect the heritage of the family, to work with them in meeting their needs, but does find that there are areas for improvement in the ways that professionals work together in understanding issues of neglect in such complex families.

Derby Safeguarding Children Board asked for urgent action on the recommendations as they emerged during the review and will continue it monitoring to ensure that progress is sustained."

The serious case review concludes that this was a complex and challenging case; a family with many children, parents who came from a Roma heritage and culture, who may not have understood or agreed with the concerns raised with them.

Communication between the family and agencies was challenging as the family speak a Romanes dialect and interpreting services for this language were insufficiently available.

There were strenuous efforts by professionals to respect the heritage of the family, to work with them in meeting their needs and to respond to the numerous daily events that required a response. However there was a lack of consensus on what the focus of concerns was.

Action has been taken to address all the recommendations set out within the review.

Derby safeguarding children board will be reviewing specific actions already completed for six of the recommendations and ensure that actions currently being taken for the remaining four recommendations are reviewed in November to demonstrate sustained progress.

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