

## Board response to the Learning lessons review into a child who sustained serious injuries following engagement in risky behaviours

The board would like to express its deepest concern regarding the incident in which this young person sustained life changing injuries as a result of a flash fire that it was believed was started by the young person.

While the review has not identified any systemic failures, it has identified a number of opportunities for learning across the system in working with young people who present with challenging and difficult behaviours and whose attitude to risk has no boundaries.

This learning Review focused on the issues that professionals were presented with in terms of assessing the risk of harm to self and others and in delivering services to reduce and mitigate that risk. The purpose of the review – in line with the board's commitment to learning and improving the way services are delivered - was to identify whether any working practices could be developed in the future.

As the review itself ran parallel to ongoing court proceedings, the engagement of the family was challenging, but the board welcomed their engagement and contribution to the learning that has emerged for all parties, including the family themselves.

The Board has welcomed the learning that has emerged and we have acted accordingly. Since the date of this incident, adoption arrangements have changed across the region, this has enabled greater consistency in support pre and post adoption offered to families. As a board we will continue to hold all agencies to account in changing policy and practice in relation to other learning, where appropriate. Progress will be closely monitored through the Learning from practice sub group to ensure that the recommendations are put into practice. We can report that work on all of the actions identified in the report is underway.

This learning review has highlighted some key challenges around the way professionals are able to engage with young people who do not want to engage and who are resistant to services. The work underway as part of the improvement work in Kirklees is focusing on developing the workforce to listen to children and to find new and innovative ways of engaging them. This extends to the way parents and carers are involved and their views are valued, this culture shift may take time but the focus on respecting and valuing the views of non-professionals given that they know children best is at the heart of the approach.

The review also emphasises the need to offer help earlier to prevent problems escalating, the ethos behind this is to provide solutions quickly and to tailor them appropriately this is at the heart of the Early Help work which this Board will quality assure to be clear that it is making the difference that is needed.

This incident was truly life changing for this child, we consider that by seeking to learn from such events and by embedding that learning into the development of our approach and the skills of our front line practitioners will further support our steps to achieve the highest possible standards of practice and to protect children and young children from harm.



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