

## **Statement – Jim Gamble QPM, Independent Chair CHSCB**

My thoughts are first and foremost with the family and friends of Ms AB and her daughter. One can only begin to imagine the legacy of pain that they will carry following such a tragic event.

The details of this case are harrowing and serve as a reminder to everyone about the devastating consequences of domestic violence and abuse at its most severe. They also point to the importance of professional curiosity, accurate risk assessments, the need for agencies to work together, robust supervision and sufficient resources being made available for front-line staff to do their jobs effectively.

I fully concur with the author's findings that action on any one of the missed opportunities for safeguarding Child D and her mother by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) could have provided a different outcome. It is therefore imperative that the MPS sustain the improvements made to date and ensure its response to domestic violence and abuse is robust and effective.

Furthermore, whilst the review's recommendations singularly apply to the MPS, it is equally important that all organisations heed the learning from this tragic case. The themes set out above are not unique to the police, with such factors also featuring in the practice of other professionals and similarly highlighted in reviews on both a local and national level. In this regard, domestic violence and abuse will remain a key priority for the child safeguarding partnership going forward into 2017.

Of particular significance is the review's finding on the impact of resource availability. For the vast majority of professionals engaged in the public sector, these are ordinary people doing a difficult job in difficult times. Whilst there were individual failings in this case, one cannot escape from the negative impact on front-line practice when staffing levels are stretched and demand is high.

In the context of all agencies, austerity remains a significant challenge and I am naturally concerned about the resilience of the local partnership in maintaining an effective response to domestic violence and abuse going forward.

For my part, in my capacity as Independent Chair of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, I will ensure that all recommendations arising from this review are progressed with the urgency and child focus that they require and that ongoing scrutiny of the local arrangements to tackle domestic violence and abuse continues.