

Jack Serious Case Review - Statement from Prity Patel, Lead Reviewer and Independent Chair of the Serious Case Review

“The purpose of the review was to look at when, how but more pertinently why professionals took certain actions when dealing with Jack over the period that he was sexually exploited. The review ensured that Jack’s “lived experience” formed an integral part of discussions and learning from this review. The review has considered what changes in multi-agency practice have already taken place since 2010 when this terrible experience for Jack and his family began, and how that positive work can achieve continuous improvement to reduce the risk of such abuse occurring again to another young person within the Bradford area. It was vital to look at practice as it occurred “*at that point in time*” rather than with the benefit of hindsight to inform any learning for the future.

“The review constructively scrutinised and challenged information provided by each relevant agency resulting in a robust consideration of the “*missed opportunities*” that were identified, as well as recognising what worked well for Jack and his family.

“Professionals who were directly involved with the case were given opportunities to be actively included in identifying and sharing how Practice has changed as well as how future Practice can be improved. This was fundamental to informing the lessons learned from this Review.

“Jack’s family has been an integral part of this Review, sharing their experiences of working with Professionals and the services delivered to them over the period Jack was abused. By participating in this way their contributions have provided invaluable insight into Jack’s “*lived experience*” and been given due consideration in the findings and final recommendations from this review.

“The review has identified and recognises that on some occasions Professionals made errors and did not follow good practice, resulting in flawed decision making thereby increasing the risk for Jack. However, it is also vital to understand the context that professionals were working in at the time; a time when professionals at local, national and international levels were less informed about social media and it’s far reaching impact on young people, particularly those that were already vulnerable. Professionals were not aware and therefore ill-equipped to deal with the internet, which “opened the flood gates”, for perpetrators to target, groom and exploit young people like Jack. Professionals had to deal with the nature of child sexual exploitation via a medium that they had no experience of. The review recognizes that has now sufficiently changed.

“Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has endorsed the final report, findings and recommendations. The BSCB will continue to robustly monitor the changes in practice and initiatives that have been instigated around child sexual exploitation and the significant risk that social media plays within that.”

ENDS

28 June 2017