

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

Chair's Response to Serious Case Review C 11

Working together to ensure every child stays safe in Torbay

The Local Safeguarding Board in Torbay is charged with protecting the most vulnerable children and young people in our society. This task is too important for it to be the sole responsibility of a single agency. The responsibilities of the Board Members are detailed within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This review has been evaluated by Her Majesty's Inspector (Ofsted). The Ofsted report is an assessment on the Serious Case Review (SCR), and is not a critique on the actual activity and action undertaken by the agencies in safeguarding the child. The overall grading falls into a number of categories: Inadequate, Adequate, Good and Outstanding.

The overall grading given to Torbay Safeguarding Children Board for this Serious Case Review was "Good".

This Serious Case Review arises from the tragic death of a baby in February 2009. Torbay Safeguarding Children Board has already implemented many of the recommendations in the findings of this report as sadly this is the second SCR commissioned for the same period of time.

What is clear, from this and other SCRs is we must continue to encourage everyone involved in this challenging work to share information with partners when it would help reduce harm to children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the dangers of co-sleeping with newborn babies. Also, in general terms, not necessarily arising from the findings in this case, the dangers alcohol can bring to a home with young children.

My heartfelt condolences go to the family of this baby.

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Board is firmly committed to ensuring the best possible service for the children of Torbay. As Independent Chair, I will ensure that policies and procedures are adhered to and each partner agency is appropriately held to account.



Bob Spencer
Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Independent Chair