

# Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

## Chair's Response to Serious Case Review C 18

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".

As Chair of Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board, this is the third Serious Case Review I have authorised in 18 months. On each occasion three things are very clear, firstly, a tragic death or serious injury to a child has occurred, secondly it is a very distressing time for the professionals who have been involved with the child. Finally, and perhaps most importantly the loss of one life causes so much pain and suffering to the families and loved ones of the child concerned we owe it to those children to learn lessons from the past to help safeguard children better in the future.

When the findings are published the media, rightly, publicise and demand improvement.

As Chair of the Safeguarding Board I am independent of all agencies represented on the 'Board'. My role is to hold each agency to account, ensure they deliver the actions placed upon them and do all that is possible to better safeguard children.

The ability to discover the lessons learnt from such tragic deaths arises out of the SCR process and the integrity of those practitioners who bravely admit failings or identify how they could have worked better so others may learn. All of this is done in the knowledge these failings will be aired in a very public arena.

The public should be reassured that as Chair of the 'Board' I will continue to commission SCRs as part of a continuous process of safeguarding children.

Again, my heartfelt condolences go out to the family and loved ones of the child in this case.



**Bob Spencer**  
**Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Independent Chair**