

## **Agencies continue to learn from review**

Independent Chair of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB), Paula Mead said: “This was a distressing case where a very young baby suffered a serious injury and now has significant special needs as a result.

“As with all Serious Case Reviews, this report has identified a number of areas where the agencies involved can learn lessons.

“However it did conclude the events leading up to Natalie’s injuries are unknown and it is difficult to identify exactly which focus might have provided more insight into pathways to harm.

“The independent reviewer has identified examples of good practice including the consistent service being offered by midwifery and health visiting teams and the use of regular safeguarding meetings and a robust referral system for information sharing.

“However, as always there are areas where agencies can still improve and the review made seven recommendations.

“These include the need to evaluate information shared about domestic abuse notification for ongoing assessment and for the NSCB to formulate new guidance on the importance of engaging with fathers.

“As this incident happened over two years ago, although we have only now been able to publish the report, people can be assured the recommendations are complete and the learning has been well embedded.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes:**

- The LSCB is a multi-agency body of agencies within Northumberland responsible for safeguarding children. Their shared role is to promote effective joint working, and to hold each other to account for the quality of work with children and their families.

- The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to learn lessons to improve how agencies work individually, and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Serious Case Reviews are not inquiries into who is culpable and to what extent for any abuse and neglect.