



## **NSCB Statement**

### **Learning follows Serious Case Review**

Independent Chair of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB), Paula Mead said: “Our thoughts remain with Olivia who suffered a range of abuse at the hands of a family member who should have been caring for her.

“As with all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), this report has identified a number of areas where the agencies involved can learn from what happened.

“The independent reviewer made 11 recommendations - a number of which have already been addressed by a previous SCR which took place shortly before Olivia’s.

“Recommendations from this review include the need to improve the quality of social care assessments and a need to review the provision of supervised contact where parents and family members have been subjected to domestic abuse.

“The review also stressed the need for all agencies to ensure they are listening to and hearing what children say, particularly when they have a learning or other disability.”

“The public can be reassured that, as with all SCRs, all learning points and recommendations are being addressed and implemented.”

## 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 how a child died or who is culpable and to what extent for any abuse and neglect.