



NSCB Statement

Agencies remain committed to improvement

Independent Chair of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB), Paula Mead said: “This was a distressing case and our thoughts remain with Molly.

“It is important that, collectively, agencies involved learn lessons from this case. The independent reviewer also identified examples of good practice where professionals challenged decision making, the quality of the out-of-hours response and the pro-active and regular social work visits.

“However there are areas agencies need to improve, from ensuring face-to-face multi-agency strategy meetings take place in complex cases, to the sharing of information and work to improve the quality of assessments.

“While there were ten recommendations, the NSCB has been progressing a comprehensive action plan, making sure all recommendations are now either completed or underway.

“We recognise that we must work effectively with each other to protect children and young people as far as we’re able and the public can be reassured we will continue to rigorously enforce the learning from this SCR.”

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.