

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Child R

Statement of The Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner

The review of Child R is a difficult read and it will be hard for many to imagine what his day-to-day life must have been like. His exposure to dysfunction, disruption, and violence at such a young age is nothing less than appalling.

Sadly, young children suffering terrible injuries, or even death, at the hands of their parents or other adults engaging with them and their family members is neither new nor uncommon. It is because of this, that whilst we will endeavour to make whatever changes are required locally, a national conversation is needed about the root causes of risk to children and the investment needed to make them safer. The stubborn challenges to practice are unlikely to improve without such focus.

Such challenges in this case, mirrored in others, involved weaknesses in information sharing, Child R's movement across different areas, professional curiosity, and the assessment of risk. Without doubt, opportunities for earlier intervention to protect Child R were missed, but I'd also like to put on record my gratitude to the individual who took the time to report their concerns. All members of the public need to adopt this attitude and I would encourage anyone who has concerns about the welfare or safety of a child to contact the authorities.

Whilst Child R's life was placed in serious jeopardy, thankfully, he has recovered from his physical injuries and is now in a better and safer place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gamble', written in a cursive style.

Jim Gamble QPM

Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner

City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership