

## **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – Child Q**

### **Statement of the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner**

I'd like to thank all those who supported and engaged with the review, in particular Child Q and her family. The report, which speaks for itself, sets out an unvarnished narrative and does so without apology. It highlights what happened and provides an opinion as to why.

Whilst I acknowledge the effort being made by local police, the council and others to better engage with and support the BAME community, such work is critically undermined when incidents like this occur.

The ordeal that Child Q experienced cannot be credibly mitigated or excused, she simply deserved better. Better from the Metropolitan Police Service and in these circumstances, better from the safeguarding professionals in her school. At its best, multi-agency practice isn't about reaching a consensus, it's about adopting a safeguarding first approach and doing what is right for children. This means prioritising action to protect them and at times, challenging others, especially when they get it wrong.

For my part, I remain fully committed to working with the community, Council and safeguarding partners to ensure the rapid and robust implementation of the review's recommendations.

I will publish an update on the progress made within six to nine months.

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

**Jim Gamble QPM**

**Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner**

**City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership**