



## **Foreword to the Serious Case Review (SCR) - Child E**

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This SCR was commissioned on behalf of Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) following the death of E.

E's parents separated shortly after his birth and contact and residency had been determined by the Court following the breakdown of their relationship. E lived with his mother, her partner and his half sibling and also spent time with his father and his family, although this contact had been stopped by mother three months prior to E's death. In September 2017, E was found deceased at the maternal family home. His mother, who was also at the property, was found with critical injuries and was transferred to hospital where her injuries were treated. Subsequently E's mother was arrested and charged with his murder. E's mother was found guilty of murdering E who was 7 years old at the time of his death and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The serious case review (SCR) was commissioned to consider the way in which agencies worked both individually and together in this case, and to explore whether there is a need to improve the way they work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Shropshire.

The report makes a series of recommendations for the lead agencies, and these have already been addressed, or are currently being addressed, as summarised below.

Shropshire Council's children's social care team is currently reviewing the referral process and the use of the multi-agency written referral form where there are concerns about a child, in order to provide clarity and effective application of the referral pathway. The new arrangements are under consultation with partners and will be implemented from January 2019.

Training and learning opportunities for the multi-agency workforce are currently being considered to include factors highlighted in the report such as: the impact of protracted private law proceedings on children's emotional wellbeing; factors to be considered and assessed in circumstances whereby separated parents make allegations about the welfare of their children; experiences and barriers to working with fathers; and enabling professionals to reflect on the approach to providing a whole family focus.

Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Board has also started to work with the Local Family Justice Board and CAFCASS to ensure timely and consistent arrangements are in place where there are safeguarding concerns for children who are going through the family court process.

SSCB will continue to seek regular assurance from partner agencies in Shropshire that the impact of the learning from this case has improved the safeguarding response to children of separated parents where contact and residency are decided by the Court.