



Child Safeguarding
Practice Review Panel

Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
London
SW1P 3BT

13 December 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL REVIEW OF ARTHUR LABINJO- HUGHES

I am writing further to your announcement on 6 December that the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will examine the circumstances leading up to the tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. The Panel has set out proposed terms of reference for the review and can confirm our intention to complete the review by May 2022.

This national review will be the first the panel has undertaken about one child. It will focus on the learning from Arthur's life and the circumstances leading up to his death. Working with relevant safeguarding partners in Solihull and Birmingham, we will seek to understand the detail of what happened and why. We will listen carefully to understand the perspectives of everyone involved, especially Arthur's family.

Alongside the Joint Targeted Area Inspection, our review will inform improvements locally. We will use the evidence and learning from other situations where children have been seriously harmed or died in order to identify where there is need for improvement and policy and practice changes nationally.

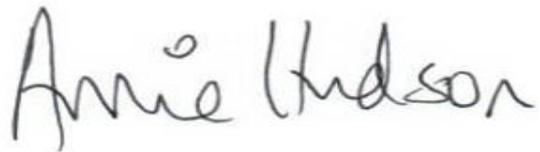
We will share findings widely and want them to directly inform and reform any legislative, policy or practice change. The national learning and recommendations will therefore be made available for the Independent Review of Children Social Care to draw on as appropriate.

We have begun to gather and review all the relevant case documentation and that activity will be complete in January. This will determine what happened and provide a preliminary analysis of the quality of practice and decision making. It will also identify the deeper and further lines of enquiry that will need to be considered before the review is completed. At the moment I anticipate being able to publish the review by May 2022 at the latest, but I will be in a stronger position to confirm dates once this initial review phase has concluded.

We have commissioned reviewers to undertake the first stage of analysis. They have extensive experience and understanding of multi-agency safeguarding and have previously delivered comprehensive analysis and reviews for the Panel. I will lead the review, working closely with other Panel colleagues.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annie Hudson, Chair

CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL