



Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Thank you for your letter dated 20 December and for the report which you commissioned to provide a deeper analysis of the failures which contributed to the tragic death of Daniel Pelka. I am grateful for the time that you and colleagues in Coventry have given to this work.

I understand that the Coventry Safeguarding Board has now had the opportunity to discuss the findings in full and you are due to publish the report shortly.

Our statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, 2013 stresses that the purpose of a serious case review is to be “transparent about any mistakes which were made so that lessons can be learnt”. It is important that the LSCB commissions a report which meets this objective, looking at what happened in individual cases and why, what action will be taken in response to review findings and publishing the report in full. A thorough analysis of why things happened is, of course necessary to ensure that the right action will be taken to address the root causes of any failures.

As you know, I had reservations about the level of detail and analysis in the serious case review and asked that you undertake further work to understand what lay behind the practice failures by agencies in Coventry. This further report gives me more confidence that the root causes of any failures are understood. It is not my responsibility as Children’s Minister to pass judgement upon the actions of individuals or organisations. It is my responsibility to ensure that serious case reviews are complete and transparent.

I trust now that the Coventry Safeguarding Board and the individual agencies will be rigorous in implementing the required changes to practice to ensure that the children of Coventry will be better protected.

I am copying this letter to: the Leader of Coventry Council, the police and crime commissioner for Coventry and the West Midlands, and the three MPs for Coventry.

Yours sincerely,
Edward.

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