



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df

Annie Hudson

Chair – Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

26 May 2022

Dear Annie,

RE: National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

I welcome today's publication of the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's report 'Child Protection in England – a national review of the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson'.

The deaths of Arthur and Star were horrific and have affected people across the country. It is impossible to comprehend how anyone could harm an innocent child in this way.

I want to thank you and your team for your hard work and commitment to this National Review. I am aware that this has included assessing and reflecting on traumatic information and I appreciate the dedication that you have shown to your work. It cannot have been easy to conduct this review and evaluate such awful details. I am hugely grateful for the Panel's findings to identify what we must learn from these terrible cases, not only in Solihull and Bradford, but across the country; it is only through these open and honest conversations that we can truly learn from what has happened.

The learning highlighted in this review is of enormous importance to improving our understanding of child protection systems and ensuring that children are protected from significant harms across the country. The report is clear that Government needs to join up better on issues of child protection and bolster practice to stop, as far as possible, such terrible incidents happening again.

The review's findings must be considered carefully, through a multi-agency lens. I want you to be in no doubt that we are committed to working with colleagues across government collaboratively to discuss next steps. I will then respond to the Panel more fully on our proposed plans to ensure that child protection is championed at the highest levels. No time can be wasted in learning from these tragedies, and I assure you that I am driven in ensuring significant change happens at pace.

I look forward to working through these recommendations with those on the front line who are working tirelessly to protect children, and with colleagues across Government to agree a reform programme and implementation plan, taking the learning from both your report and the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. As you rightly note, system-wide reform is key to improving outcomes and addressing safeguarding in the long term. I am committed to driving forward progress. Together, we will make sure that children are protected.

Once more, I would like to thank the Panel for their hard work over the last few months to undertake this review, and for their ongoing commitment to ensure that lessons are shared to inform child protection practice improvement to help protect children at risk of abuse or neglect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education