



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

19 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL REVIEW INTO THE DEATH OF BABY M

I am writing to confirm that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will examine the issues raised by the tragic death of Baby M. The Panel has set out proposed terms of reference for the review and can confirm our intention to publish the review by May 2024.

This national review will work in collaboration with safeguarding partnerships, agencies and practitioners to ensure that effective local and national learning is identified.

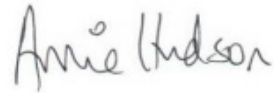
The findings and recommendations will be developed in response to analysis of evidence compiled during the review process. This will cover areas of potential national learning which includes but is not limited to:

- Working with people who conceal pregnancies
- Working with parents and carers who are evasive or do not engage with agencies
- Working together across different areas and jurisdictions
- Management of serious offenders
- Responsibilities of private health providers and safeguarding agencies to protect children where healthcare is provided outside the NHS

A reviewer has been commissioned to undertake an analysis of the learning and deliver the final report. Dale Simon will lead the review with Sally Shearer, with my support as Panel Chair. Along with learning from the circumstances around Baby M's tragic death, 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 in policy and practice nationally. We will publish the findings to inform any legislative, policy or practice change.

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 style with a small circle above the 'i' in "Annie".

Annie Hudson
Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel