



RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL REVIEW INTO THE MURDERS OF ARTHUR LABINJO-HUGHES AND STAR HOBSON

The Pan Dorset Safeguarding Partnership's (PDSCP) thoughts are with the families and all those affected by the horrific and tragic murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, and we fully support the importance of respecting their rights to privacy.

The review clearly shows that Arthur and Star died in horrific circumstances, that opportunities were missed and that they were failed by the system.

PDSCP welcomes the overarching conclusion that the child protection system in England must be strengthened, both locally and nationally.

A second national recommendation is the proposal to set up a new Child Protection ministerial department. PDSCP expects the establishing of such a Child Protection ministerial board to be inclusive of all partners, including professional membership representation.

The report highlights the complexity of multi-agency safeguarding and protecting children, the impact of the pandemic, service pressures, turnover rates, missed opportunities, leadership, and system failures, as well acknowledging that *'every day, many thousands of children are protected from harm by conscientious, committed and capable social workers, police officers, health, educational and many other professionals.'*

Time and time again serious reviews have shown failures in multi-agency working, followed by recommendations for systematic change.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and a range of professionals must work in a multidisciplinary way to safeguard children. Working as part of a multi-agency group of professionals who are tasked with keeping children safe from harm.

It is important however that when things do go wrong, we seek to learn and act on any lessons. The Review calls for a change in the child protection system design to enable a strengthened the multi-disciplinary approach, and training both of which are welcome.

This also aligns to the recommendations of the Children's Social care Review <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care> It is however important that any system change is resourced properly, at the right points, for children and their families to be able to receive the right help, at the right time so that they are prevented from reaching crisis point.

The recommendation for Multi-Agency Child Protection Units could be part of the answer but not enough detail is known about it yet. The PDSCP is committed to upholding the highest standards of practice for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.