



A Statement from our Independent Chair Dr Adi Cooper OBE

On behalf of the Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (CSAPB), I wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family, friends and those affected by the circumstances that led to the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) concerning “Brandon”. We fully acknowledge that at the centre of every SAR is an individual whose life was meaningful and significant to those who knew and cared for them.

The CSAPB commissioned this independently led SAR in January 2023 to review how agencies worked together and collaborated to support and safeguard “Brandon” in the period preceding his death.

It is important to note that the role of the reviewer is not to determine the cause of death, as this is the responsibility of the coroner. The coroner’s work has confirmed the cause of death, and this SAR references and explains the coroner’s findings in great detail. This approach reflects the parallel nature of these undertakings. Furthermore, SAR authors often require the conclusion of related investigations and enquiries - such as those conducted by the coroner, police and others – to ensure that the report is as fully informed.

The purpose of a SAR is not to attribute blame to individuals or agencies but to enable learning from what took place and ensure that the findings lead to recommendations that facilitate meaningful change, prevent similar situations occurring, drive improvements in inter-agency collaboration, and enhance safeguarding adults’ practice.

The SAR author has identified several important multi-agency lessons and has made recommendations for improving practice and strengthening coordination between agencies in order to improve how people can be supported to be safe experiencing similar circumstances. Among these recommendations, the reviewer has proposed improving communication pathways for the delivery of health and care needs using the “team around a person” approach, which will now be taken forward by Board partners..

As the independent Chair of the Board, I wish to acknowledge the significant impact a SAR has – not only on the professionals and agencies involved, but also on individuals, families and the wider community. I recognise that some of the information contained within this SAR may be difficult for individuals to revisit, however I and the Board members consider that it is important to publish Safeguarding Adult Reviews to uphold transparency, evidence accountability and to promote wider learning.

The reviewer has provided valuable insight into the challenges encountered by practitioners and agencies working with “Brandon”. Their focus has been to ascertain



lessons from these events in order to help prevent future occurrences. In particular, the reviewer has recommended specialist consideration to multi -disciplinary working for individuals with complex neurological needs, identifying differing funding streams within assessment and review processes for different elements of support and their oversight and commissioning arrangements to be considered.

The Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board will monitor the implementation of action plans developed in response to the reviewer's recommendations to ensure that improvements are realised, and that continued learning and collaborative working are sustained. We remain committed to ongoing learning, improvement and enhancement of safeguarding adults' work across all agencies in Camden.