

**Statement by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board**  
**re: Concise Child Practice Review WB B41 2017**

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WSBCB) has published its report for child practice review WB B41 2017.

The safeguarding of children remains an absolute priority for all of the board's member agencies.

Child practice reviews are intended to provide an opportunity to reflect upon what decisions and actions have been taken, and to consider whether there are any opportunities for making improvements to working practices.

While the WB B41 2017 review has found no suggestion that additional support could have prevented the tragic circumstances from taking place, the young family as a whole may have benefited from additional appropriate interventions. As such, a number of recommendations have been made about systems and practices across all of the relevant agencies and organisations, and action is being taken to implement them.

These include additional joint screening designed to ensure that early help and intervention services are easily accessible, better information sharing and feedback between professionals, minimising the potential for ambiguity in record-keeping, reporting and documenting in more explicit terms, and investigating a 'flagging' system for children who are subject to care and support intervention that will further assist statutory health services.

The review also made reminders of existing practice in relation to safeguarding procedures and approaches to assessments.

The board has ensured that all of the agencies involved have been made aware of the findings, and that working practices have been modified accordingly.

**Notes for editors**

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board is a regional Safeguarding Board covering the three local authority areas of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend. The board has been established since April 2013.

Child Practice Reviews have replaced Serious Case Reviews. The Framework: Protecting Children in Wales, Guidance for Arrangements for Multi Agency Child Practice Reviews was established to promote a positive culture of multi-agency child protection learning and reviewing in January 2013.

Child Practice Reviews bring together the records of all agencies that have had involvement with the child or family into a timeline of events. A learning event with all practitioners involved in a case is held to draw out practice learning. An Output report is produced which outlines identified practice and organisational learning and can include recommendations for improving systems and practice.

The principles underpinning the arrangements for Child Practice Reviews can be found in part two of the Child Practice Review Framework and Guidance.