

Today (25th November 2021) the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership have published a thematic Serious Case Review. This review considers the circumstances of three infants.

Derek Benson, Independent Chair of the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership said:

*“Infant deaths and injuries are always particularly hard to deal with and I would like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone who has been affected by these tragic cases. Given the similarity of these three cases, the SSCP commissioned this broad thematic review to assess whether there were any shared factors that affected the quality of safeguarding and to help practitioners learn the right lessons and address any shortcomings from these cases.*

*The review makes important recommendations about working with young parents especially those who are still children themselves. There are clear lessons for the agencies involved about sharing information and being alert to the impact that vulnerabilities such as homelessness, mental health issues and substance misuse, can have on young parents.*

*The safeguarding partnership accepts all the recommendations in this review, and I am confident that the agencies involved are working hard to address the learning identified. We will continue to work with all safeguarding partners to ensure they are performing to the highest standards in keeping our vulnerable children safe. Two of the children in these reviews are now doing well and I would request that their privacy and that of their families is respected.”*