



### **Independent Chair's Statement for SCR Child CC**

On 29 June 2015 the bodies of Child CC and her mother were discovered in their home by the Police. The investigation by the Police into the deaths of Child CC and her mother resulted in a clear conclusion that the father of Child CC was the perpetrator of both killings. He later took his own life and there was no opportunity to prosecute him of any offence.

A joint Domestic Homicide and Serious Case Review was commissioned and one of the objectives was to consider what lessons are to be learned from domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations worked individually and together to safeguard victims.

In addition, the purpose of the Serious Case Review was to identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies and what is expected to change as a result to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Having examined all the aspects of this joint report, I fully concur with the author's findings, namely that whilst it was known that the mother had reported domestic abuse a few years earlier, there was very little evidence on which to base strong and detailed conclusions. This, though, is often the nature of domestic relationships which are abusive. It is for this reason that the level of intervention and the expertise necessary to deal with such matters is the subject of much consideration, training, policy and practice. Improvements can only be made with agencies working together in a coordinated way.

Child CC had attended the same school for six years and during this period there was no obvious evidence to alert the school that Child CC was living in a household where there was domestic abuse. The SSCB is keen to raise awareness around channels that children can utilise to make disclosures of domestic abuse.

With the evidence available, it cannot be claimed that these killings were predictable.

The SSCB has identified domestic abuse as one of its priorities and has had carried out challenge events with partners regarding their practice in relation to domestic abuse. This

report has produced a number of recommendations for the partnership, local organisations as well as national bodies. I am confident that all partners are committed to seeking out every opportunity to learn and improve and I will be working with them to move the recommendations forward with the urgency they require.

Elaine Coleridge Smith  
SSCB Independent Chair