

**Statement from the Independent Chair regarding the SK Safeguarding Adults Review
– 31st March 2022**

Firstly, on behalf of the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB), our condolences are offered to the family and friends of SK.

Following the death of SK, the MSAB commissioned an independently led review into the circumstances leading up to her death, the care she was receiving and how different agencies worked together to support her.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to understand what has happened, learn lessons and if necessary, make changes to the ways in which we work.

As a result of this specific review, the lessons learnt have led to improvements in how we work together to support people who are alcohol dependant and their families, namely:

- The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board has commissioned training for practitioners, from [Alcohol Change UK](#), on the 'Blue Light Project' principles. The training aims to improve and innovate practice in working with people experiencing difficulty with alcohol use. The Merton Safeguarding Adult Board will evaluate the impact of this training going forward.
- We continue to develop tangible plans for improving our 'Think Family' approach. This is a priority for the Board and has been woven through our Business Plan for 2021-2024 and was one of the key themes of our Joint Safeguarding Conference earlier this month. Stronger strategic and working relationships have been forged with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to support this work.

The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to work with the agencies involved to monitor the actions arising from this review and ensure continuous improvements to the way we support people as a result.

Aileen Buckton: Chair of Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB)

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