

Annabel -Safeguarding Adults Review Statement- March 2023

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

Following Annabel's death, the MSAB commissioned an independent review to understand her experience of services prior to her taking her life and to consider the support she received and how agencies worked in partnership to protect her.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to identify what happened and to establish what needs to change to ensure there is system learning to ensure our services in Merton make a difference to the lives of those in need of care and support and their families.

Since the review there has been system change to improve how services work with adults and children. The MSAB and Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) have incorporated a 'Think Family' approach to the delivery of our services so adults at risk and their children are supported at the earliest opportunity to maintain their health, wellbeing, and autonomy.

In March 2023 we are delivering the second annual MSAB and MSCP Safeguarding Conference, which is entitled 'Domestic Abuse-Learning from the Lived Experience of Trauma from Child to Adult'. We will be including learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

In addition, the Annabel SAR has recommended:

- Agencies consider the need for therapeutic support for women whose children are the subject of court proceedings and where there is the likelihood their children may be removed from their care on either a temporary or permanent basis and in particular for women who have known long-standing mental health issues, and a known history of self-harm and attempts to take their own life.
- There is assurance children's services 'think family' when working with families and when initiating court proceedings.

A Task and Finish Group of relevant partners has been set up to deliver and oversee this work.

The Merton Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to work with the agencies involved and the wider partnership to monitor the actions arising from this review and ensure that practice changes as a result.

Nicola Brownjohn, Chair of Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB)

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