Dear colleagues

WSCP - Initial Response to publication of the National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

The national panel’s review opening statement that “there was palpable public shock when the unimaginably horrific deaths from abuse suffered by Arthur Labinjo – Hughes and Star Hobson became known” is central to how we all feel about these tragic episodes. Arthur was a little boy who enjoyed playing cricket and football. He enjoyed school, had lots of friends, and was always laughing. Star was an inquisitive toddler who loved to listen to music and would dance in her baby walker, laughing and giggling.

We as Wandsworth Safeguarding Children’s Partners, acknowledge that the deaths will have impacted on staff across all agencies in many different ways and we want to thank you all for your dedication and ongoing commitment in safeguarding children in Wandsworth. We understand that protecting children from abuse is intrinsically complex and challenging work.

When there is a high level of media and public scrutiny of children dying as a result of abuse, professional anxiety is raised. It is our intention to ensure that practitioners are well supported, have necessary expertise and that systems and processes are in place for identifying those children who need to be protected.

We want to assure all children, community and staff that we will be looking at the recommendations and findings from the report to strengthen local arrangements.

Yours sincerely

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