



OSCB press statement

OSCB publishes a Serious Case Review concerning Child Q

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) has today published a Serious Case Review (SCR) into the death of a 14-month-old girl, referred to as Child Q.

The mother of Child Q was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison in November 2016.

The purpose of the SCR, which covers the period from October 2012 until Child Q's death in August 2014, is to examine the role of local agencies which came into contact with the family and to highlight areas of learning to improve wider safeguarding systems in Oxfordshire.

Interim Independent Chairman of the OSCB Paul Burnett said: "This was a terribly tragic case involving the sudden, unexpected death of a young girl. Today's publication will be another very difficult milestone for the family and friends of Child Q, and our thoughts remain firmly with them".

"There were no findings to suggest that Child Q's death could have been prevented by alternative actions by local agencies, and all the available information and professional observations suggested there was a good relationship between mother and child".

"The review's findings set out a number of ways in which this case is instructive of wider challenges for professionals working with cases of child neglect – both nationally and here in Oxfordshire".

Mr Burnett added: "The OSCB has already identified this area of work as a priority, and oversaw a pilot project in 2015 which focused on how practitioners from Oxfordshire's child protection agencies can work more effectively to support children and families where there are issues of neglect. We are already taking forward recommendations to strengthen the approach of professionals".