

**Statement – Safeguarding Adults Review: Christine\***  
**Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Chair, Sue Redmond**

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has chosen to publish Christine's Report to support ongoing learning that will impact and support changes.

Board members and I would like to express our sincere condolences to Christine's family. SSAB representatives explored different ways of contacting family members however, they were unable to engage them in the production of this report. We recognise how challenging this can be for families and people who have lost a loved one.

Christine was a single lady in her late forties who had a long history of complex physical health issues. She had previously been treated for cancer, and in 2018 had been diagnosed with heart failure.

Christine's struggle to live with the practical and psychological impact of her health issues had led to recurring episodes of suicide ideation. Her struggle with gender identity since her teenage years also impacted on her mental health.

The leaders of the organisations on the SSAB have accepted and agreed to take forward all the recommendations from this review. The report has emphasised the importance of assessing and identifying risk, a clear risk framework and the need to work together.

Particular progress has been made on the following recommendation: "Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board should recommend that the multi-agency Vulnerable Adult Risk Management working group, with the support of the SSAB Business team, develop a thematic data set that will support assurance being provided to SSAB on how effectively the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Framework is being applied".

Finally, I would like to thank all professionals who have taken part in this review to help partners continue improving the services and support they provide to adults with needs for care and support and their families, living in Sandwell.

\*A pseudonym is used to protect the identity of individuals in line with national guidance