

STATEMENT

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Chair, Sue Redmond

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has chosen to publish the learning reports from a Thematic Review to support ongoing learning that will impact and support changes. This thematic Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) seeks to learn lessons from the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two people – Kim* and Morgan* – who, despite being very different individuals, shared similarities in their presentations and patterns of behaviour.

SSAB representatives explored different ways of contacting family members for both individuals. However, they were unable to engage with Morgan's family in the production of this report. We recognise how challenging this can be for families and people who have lost a loved one.

Board members and I would like to express our sincere condolences to Kim's family and thank them for their contributions to this report and learning materials. Board members and I would also like to express our sincere condolences to Morgan's family.

Kim's mother shared the below regarding her daughter:

"Kim was a great kid; so loving... a mommy's girl. She grew up to have three children and was a good mom. I was so proud of her. Her life changed when she turned 26 years. Kim and her partner broke up after five years together and Kim didn't take it well. She started using drugs around the age of 26 and her life would never be the same again. She lost her home, her children and herself."

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.

Progress on recommendations is being made, particularly with reference to risk management, training and awareness raising with all front-line staff and guidance on effective engagement.

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

*Pseudonyms are used in this review and statement