

## **Statement – Safeguarding Adults Review: Adeena**

**Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Chair, Sue Redmond**

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has chosen to publish Adeena's Learning brief to support ongoing learning that will impact and support changes. We chose not to publish the full report after discussion with family members who advised it would cause them distress.

Board members and I would like to express our sincere condolences to Adeena's family. SSAB representatives explored different ways of contacting family members and had some contact with a sister and a friend of Adeena. We recognise how challenging this can be for families and people who have lost a loved one.

Adeena had been a successful financial fraud investigator, but a stroke left her with left-side hemiparalysis, epilepsy and irritable bowel syndrome, fibromyalgia and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. She experienced frequent severe pain and had very limited mobility. Consequently, she suffered the loss of her job and home, and she incurred debt. She moved to Sandwell Council accommodation where her care and support needs were assessed, and carers attended four times daily. Her ground floor flat was not equipped with a ramp – therefore she could not leave unaided, relying upon the assistance of carers or a friend who supported her throughout the period under review.

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 has been made, particularly with reference to the SAR's recommendation that Sandwell Council and partners "develop Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Guidance that promotes an increased use of multi-disciplinary or strategy meetings in complex cases". The Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Guidance and procedure was launched in November 2021. In addition, a review of the content and application of the Mental Capacity Act is being undertaken.

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.

\*The report is anonymised in line with national guidance to protect the identity of individuals