

STATEMENT

SSAB Chair, Sue Redmond

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has chosen to publish Jeff's Report to support ongoing learning that will impact and support changes. Board members and I would like to express our sincere condolences to Jeff's family. SSAB representatives worked closely with Jeff's sister, ensuring her voice was heard and that she was able to comment on the recommendations. We want to express our thanks to Jeff's family for the contributions they have made to this report and their commitment to an ongoing working relationship with SSAB supporting the delivery of some of the recommendations. In particular, there is a focus on life planning with families and carers at times of critical life events.

Jeff was born into a large family and had a learning disability. Jeff lived in his family home (where he was born) with his sister (who took over carer responsibilities from their parents) and brother who also has a learning disability. Jeff is described as larger than life, a bit of a joker who could be stubborn and liked to get to know people well before trusting them.

Jeff had a lot of tests as he started to have difficulty walking. He was shuffling and having falls. Also, he was sad and sometimes a little short tempered. His GP referred him for some tests with a Consultant Psychiatrist. Jeff had some tests with a Consultant Psychologist too about dementia. Dementia screening showed no significant decline in Jeff's function. Jeff stayed under the care of the Community Learning Disability Team.

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 person-centred working and approaches including person-centred planning and a need for partnership working, particularly with reference to people with multiple complex needs, specifically to consider a system of highlighting risk and care co-ordination across health and social care records including a dynamic risk assessment. It is important to hear the voice of carers and to engage with them and people being cared for in planning for critical life decisions and choices. Project work is already being undertaken with

a focus on scoping in respect of accessible information and developing a plan to work with older carers on families leading planning. A learning event is planned for later this year, being run by a user led organisation focusing on the importance of person-centred planning and some practical examples of how to do this well.

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 in Sandwell with needs for care and support and their families.