

Bristol Safeguarding Children Board statement in response to the Aya Parker Serious Case Review

Sally Lewis, Independent Chair of the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board, said: “The death of Aya was a tragic incident that occurred under circumstances that may never be fully explained. On behalf of the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board I would like to thank Aya’s mother for contributing to the review from the beginning and offering her full support during this very difficult time.

“The BSCB commissioned this review to understand what the organisations in Bristol could learn about a case where there was minimal agency involvement. The review concluded that sadly there was little to suggest to agencies that Aya was at any particular risk of harm and required additional safeguarding.

“The Serious Case Review did find that the lack of a universal programme of work with fathers in the antenatal and postnatal period reduces the opportunities for fathers to play a full and active role in early childhood, and for professionals to assess their needs and roles within the family. Whilst the review did not find that specific work with Aya’s father would have prevented Aya’s death, this is an area that is important for us to progress in Bristol and one where I will be raising the need to review the local offer with commissioners.

“My thanks also go to Anne Morgan, the independent reviewer, for her diligence and thorough approach to this review.”