



Review published into case of baby who died following incomplete termination and concealed pregnancy

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Lancashire Safeguarding Assurance Partnership has today (Monday 26th February 2024) published the findings of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review into the case of a baby who died following a premature birth after a concealed pregnancy. A Child Safeguarding Practice Review is undertaken when a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way organisations worked together.

This review concerns Child AF and her mother. Child AF was born at approximately 24 weeks gestation following her mother attending her local delivery suite after going into early labour. Child AF sadly died at one day old, her prematurity being such that her survival prospects were poor from birth.

County Councillor Cosima Towneley, Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Lancashire County Council, said: "While a multi-agency approach is well embedded within Children's Social Care services, this review has highlighted the importance of clear, consistent communication and regular sharing of safeguarding information between Children's Social Care, health and the Police.

"There have been policy and guidance changes as a result of these unfortunate events and I am confident that further and ongoing training and communication throughout the partnership will help to ensure we can prevent this from happening in the future."

Professor Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer at Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Chair of the Lancashire Children Safeguarding and Assurance Partnership Executive said: "The partnership will take on board the recommendations of this review, particularly around supporting parents with learning disabilities and learning difficulties, understanding of termination of pregnancy procedures and wider awareness of the Pan Lancashire Concealed and Denied Pregnancy Guidance.

"We will continue to work together to improve our safeguarding practices to protect the health and wellbeing of vulnerable parents, children and young people in Lancashire."

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