



A Statement from Dr Adi Cooper, Independent Chair, Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (Camden SAPB)

The Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (Camden SAPB) extends its deepest sympathies to all those affected by the tragic events surrounding Joe's death and to the loved ones of Joe. We recognise the profound loss experienced by his family, friends and those who knew and cared for him, and we extend our deepest condolences. We acknowledge that the publication of this report may be distressing for those close to Joe and for the professionals involved. However, we consider that transparency is essential, and we believe that sharing this learning publicly contributes towards better understanding, improved practice, and safeguarding arrangements.

In January 2024, Camden SAPB commissioned an independently led Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) to consider how organisations worked together to support and safeguard Joe in the period leading up to his death. The purpose of a SAR is not to attribute blame but to understand what happened, to identify opportunities for learning and improvement, and to support actions to strengthen how agencies work together to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

As with many complex reviews, this one could only be completed after other parallel formal investigations, such as the one undertaken by the Coroner, had been concluded. This approach ensures that the review is factually informed, balanced, and as comprehensive as possible. It is essential to clarify that the Coroner's process operates separately from that of a SAR, and any decisions arising from the coronial process rest solely with the Coroners and their court. Whilst the SAR draws on the Coroner's findings to inform its understanding of events, these are two distinct lines of enquiry, and each plays its own critical role in meeting the requirements of each separate process.

This review noted areas where relevant changes and improvements had already taken place and identified important areas for learning across the safeguarding system. Several specific recommendations have been made by the reviewer, some of which have already begun to be implemented. Additionally, several partner

agencies have initiated these improvements independently, prior to the report's completion, recognising the need for timely and proactive responses to the emerging issues. A key recommendation of the review is to relaunch the 'co-occurring diagnosis pathway' (concerning people with both mental health and substance misuse issues) with a clear expectation that this will take place within three months of the review's publication. This recommendation reflects the ongoing challenge of supporting individuals with both mental health and substance misuse needs, and the importance of having a clearly defined collaborative approach in place.

The Camden SAPB operates as an independent body, separate from the local authority and an individual agency or provider. This independence is crucial in ensuring that the Camden SAPB can provide impartial oversight, challenge practice, and hold partners to account.

The Camden SAPB will maintain oversight of the implementation of the review's recommendations through formal monitoring arrangements. Partner agencies will be required to report on progress within agreed timeframes, and feedback will be provided to the Camden SAPB to ensure that improvements are reviewed and sustained.

One of the key areas of the review concerns how people who are living in supported accommodation are effectively safeguarded. The Camden SAPB acknowledges the Government's commitment to improving the standards in the quality of support provided in supported housing, particularly through the introduction of national Supported Housing Standards and Principles. In line with this, the SAR author recommends that the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government gives further consideration to how the implementation of the Supported Housing Act 2023 can be strengthened. A more consistent and robust regulatory approach is needed to ensure that vulnerable adults receive safe high-quality support. The Camden SAPB intends to escalate this concern through appropriate mechanisms.

The Camden SAPB remains firmly committed to promoting learning and system-wide improvements in adult safeguarding, continuing to work in partnership to reduce harm, support those at risk and achieve better outcomes across all services. The findings from this review will be disseminated to all the Camden SAPB partners so that staff, managers and leaders can learn from the circumstances of Joe's death in order to improve partnership working to support people to keep themselves safe.