

On behalf of the Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), Independent Scrutineer Steve Cullen, said:

“The Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership brings together the Local Authority, Police and Health, together with other relevant organisations, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area. The Solihull Partnership acknowledges and accepts the findings of the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) which was undertaken following the tragic murder of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes by the very people who were meant to love and care for him.

“It is clear from the findings of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection published today, and following the analysis by organisations of their local practice, that there are areas that need to improve. The Partnership needs to better understand the lived experiences of children in Solihull and individual organisations need to make improvements to the way that they respond to children – we haven’t waited until the report to do this, work has already begun.

“The Local Authority has established a multi-agency Improvement Board with an independent chair to drive forward the necessary changes. This Board will support, oversee, and importantly challenge partner organisations with responsibility for safeguarding children on their progress in making the necessary improvements.

“We are pleased that the inspection team highlighted the commitment and knowledge of staff within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and recognised their dedication to meeting the needs of children in Solihull.

“The inspection team also recognised the immense pressure that staff are under and all the safeguarding partners have worked together to increase the number of staff working within the MASH to ensure that children are protected in a timely and speedy manner.

“On behalf of the safeguarding partners I want to provide assurance that we have taken on board all of the comments from the inspectors and we are committed to work together to improve the way we protect children in Solihull and to do everything we can to ensure positive outcomes for our children and young people.”

What is an LSCP

Solihull’s Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) was set up to bring together the named safeguarding partners to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Solihull, and to ensure that local safeguarding children arrangements are effective.

The three named safeguarding partners: Solihull Council, West Midlands Police and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, have a shared and equal duty to make these arrangements to work together in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area. The Council’s lead member for Educations and Skills and a local schools’ representative also sit on the LSCP Executive group.

The three safeguarding partners also work very closely with other relevant organisations, such as the Probation Service, other NHS providers and education partners.

Solihull LSCP was set up following statutory guidance, ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)’ which introduced a requirement for new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

To find out more visit: <https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/>