

Health and Social Services Department

Corporate Administration

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27 November 2009

Mr M Taylor
Independent Chair, JCPC
1 Ashton Villas
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Our ref: RLJ/LAW

Dear Mike

Serious Case Review: Family [REDACTED]

Thank you for your support in recent discussions between Deputy Hilton and Health and Social Services on the above family. As you know, Deputy Hilton has continuing concerns about the way in which this case has been managed, and my plan had been to commission an internal review, detailing Children's Service involvement and decision making. Following discussion of this proposal with Marnie Baudains and Tony le Sueur, I am now wondering if this is the most appropriate way forward, and it is for this reason that I am seeking your opinion and advice.

The production of a report containing a full review of Children's Service involvement is not an issue. It would be a time consuming job, but one which we all agree would be worthwhile. However, the difficulty we perceive with this approach is the context within which it will take place, that is, it will provide information and analysis from one perspective only; it will not be integrated with and tested against information and analysis from other agencies involved in the child protection process; and there will be no impartial overview and comment. We believe this will result in some inherent risks. Firstly Deputy Hilton may not accept the outcomes of the review, particularly if they are not in accord with her already formed, negative opinion of what she believes to have happened. Secondly, if there is learning to be derived from the exercise, there will be no established vehicle with which to share it. The Serious Case Review process would of course resolve these concerns. However, I am aware that the JCPC Child Death and Serious Case Sub-Committee received a request to consider Family [REDACTED] for SCR earlier this year, and a decision was taken not to take this formal route, at least in part because a full SCR was about to be undertaken on a similarly large and complex family, and the issue of capacity and similarity were taken into account.

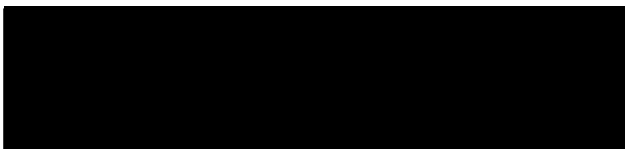
I would be grateful for your opinion on whether you feel a SCR would be an appropriate way forward in this case, or whether you can identify an alternative means of potentially addressing the issues identified above, and, if a SCR is deemed appropriate would the

JCPC Sub-committee be prepared to consider a second referral for SCR of this case in light of the first not having been taken up?

I would of course be happy to discuss this matter with you if that would be helpful.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Richard Jouault
Acting Chief Executive

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