



NEWHAM LOCAL  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
BOARD

**Serious Case Review published by Newham Safeguarding Board following injury of child with complex needs**

The multi-agency Newham Safeguarding Board (NSCB) has published an independent Serious Case Review into the circumstances which saw a child with complex needs suffering a cardiac arrest after she was trapped underneath her bed.

The review was commissioned by the NSCB so all agencies involved can learn lessons and improve the way they work individually and collectively in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Prepared by independent child safeguarding expert Jane Doherty, the review is in response to the incident in October 2017 involving Child L who was taken to hospital after she was found trapped under the bed.

The report focuses on a need to ensure strategies are reviewed so that children with complex needs receive the specialist support they require and the importance of a coordinated response.

Though her family were known to a variety of agencies since 2010 and a number of interventions were provided Child L did not receive a service which specifically catered to her needs as a disabled child.

The report recommends Newham Safeguarding Children Board should review its strategy for working with families where children are in need to ensure there is clear guidance in respect of interventions for children with complex needs that includes holistic and coordinated care with access to advocacy services for disabled children, young people and their parents.

Steps have already been taken by Newham Council to address issues identified within the Serious Case Review including producing clear guidelines and eligibility criteria to the Children and Young People with Disabilities team. The team now offer specialist input and advice within Children's Service where required, including to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

The council has committed to investing £1.3 million to improve Special Educational Needs and Disability services. This includes the provision of a more robust Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) and ensuring children and young people have Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans where required.

Regular reviews of any specialist equipment provided by the council to children are now in place that check the arrangements for specialist equipment for children with complex needs are fit for purpose, The chair of the board has written to the bed manufacturer to make them aware of the incident and request they explore the possibility of adding safety features such as a sensor to help prevent further accidents.

Child L made a full recovery from her injuries. Independent NSCB chair Nancy Kelley said: "On behalf of the organisations which make up Newham Safeguarding, I want to apologise to Child L. We accept the findings and recommendations of this report and have already taken steps to improve our systems and processes when working with children and young people with complex needs. All the organisations involved are working closely together to ensure a better coordinated approach so we can help to prevent something like this from happening again."