



**Leeds Safeguarding
Adults Board**

**TALK
TO ME,
HEAR
MY VOICE**

Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board response to publication of a Safeguarding Adults Review concerning the experiences of Mr & Mrs A and Mr B

Statement by Richard Jones, CBE: LSAB Independent Chair

Today we have published the reports of Safeguarding Adults Reviews concerning the experience of the late Mr A and his wife, Mrs A, and that concerning Mr B.

Mrs A and her family have been central to this process and learning and I'd like to personally thank them for their participation in what was inevitably an emotional and difficult experience. I am also aware that the review was undertaken at a time when Mrs A was grieving the loss of her husband and adjusting to a very different life. Without their involvement, however, we would not have been able to reflect the depth of understanding that this review has achieved.

Regrettably, despite the Board's efforts, it was not possible to involve any of Mr B's family in the review that concerned his experience. However, that review has followed a person-focused approach that has considered what is known about Mr B's preferences, wishes and feelings and which has placed that knowledge at the centre of its considerations.

The LSAB has been fortunate to benefit from both reviews being led by national experts in this area of safeguarding, Professors Suzy Braye and Michael Preston-Shoot. They have brought their expertise and knowledge to these reviews and have provided us with challenge and insightful suggestions for improvement. In Leeds, we know we have a lot of work to do to develop a city-wide, effective approach to supporting citizens living in extreme self-neglect. The recommendations from these reviews have been accepted in full by

the Board and we have a robust action plan that will enable us to achieve our aim to improve our collective response to people living in these circumstances.

These reviews have also reinforced our understanding of the essential values that support excellence in this complex area of work. These are entirely in line with the principle of focusing on the person, their perspective, lived experience and views that underpins all our safeguarding adults work in Leeds and is summed up in the phrase given to us by citizens in Leeds; *'Talk to me, hear my voice'*.

The Board will be providing a range of learning opportunities over the coming months that reflect the learning from these reviews and provide practitioners with the tools they need. We are determined to do everything we can to ensure the learning from these reviews make a difference to the experience of the citizens of Leeds.

Richard Jones, CBE
LSAB Independent Chair, July 2020