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Minister for Safeguarding



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Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
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Dear Safeguarding Partners,

Today, the Independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published their review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson [[National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-publishes-review-into-the-murders-of-arthur-labinjo-hughes-and-star-hobson)]. The deaths of Arthur and Star were horrific and have affected people across the country. It is impossible to comprehend how anyone could harm an innocent child in this way.

Although local recommendations are specific to the areas involved in these two cases, it is important to note that the learning will be pertinent to all partners, as system-wide reform is key to improving outcomes in the long term. The learning from these two tragic cases is relevant for all when considering the child protection system and wider safeguarding practice.

The Panel found evidence of professionals carrying out effective child protection every day, and it is important to acknowledge this. However, the Panel also found that the child protection element of our safeguarding system needs to be strengthened to ensure children are protected from significant harm across the country. To this end, the Panel has made eight recommendations to bolster child protection practice nationally and ensure the systems, processes, leadership, culture, and wider service context are enablers for our safeguarding professionals, rather than barriers.

The review addresses a series of complex issues in its recommendations, which must be considered carefully through a multi-agency lens. We are writing to assure you that across government, we are committed to working with colleagues to reflect on the findings from this review and to collaboratively discuss next steps. We look forward to working closely with many of you on the front line, who are working tirelessly to protect children.

We ask that all safeguarding partners read the report to consider how to apply the important learning that the review identifies in their areas. This learning is of

enormous importance to improving our understanding of child protection systems and practice and strengthening these to ensure that children are protected from significant harms across the country.

It is only through working collaboratively that we will make sure that every child, no matter where they live, and no matter their background, has access to the same opportunities and protections.

Additionally, we would like to bring to your attention the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, which was published on Monday 23 May.

Both the Panel Review and Care Review make recommendations for improvements to existing child protection practice and delivery of wider children's services. We and our officials are working together to agree our response to these two reviews. This will be set out in a single implementation plan, to be published by the end of this year.

We wish to reassure you of our commitment to work with you as we develop this implementation plan. Your views as safeguarding partners are essential, and we will ensure via consultation that they help to inform our next steps.

Finally, we wish to extend our thanks to you as safeguarding partners, and to commend the ongoing complex and challenging work that you do each day to protect and safeguard children.

Yours sincerely,



**Rachel Maclean MP**  
**Minister for Safeguarding**



**Will Quince MP**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State**  
**for Children and Families**



**Gillian Keegan MP**  
**Minister of State for Care and**  
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