



Brenda Review – SAB Media Statement

Deborah Stuart Angus, Independent Chair of the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board, said:

“On behalf of the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board, along with our partner agencies in the City, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Brenda¹, who died in December 2018.

Brenda had a history of substance misuse, homelessness and mental health diagnoses. In the period leading up to her death she suffered from severe self-neglect which significantly affected her physical health and her living conditions. It was agreed by the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board to commission a Safeguarding Adult Review, to explore the concerns and the associated multi-agency response to enable practitioners and services to learn from this very sad and complex case. We extend our thanks to Brenda’s family for engaging with this review and sharing valuable information about her, particularly her younger years.

We would also like to acknowledge the good practice highlighted within the report, in particular a support worker who went above and beyond their role to maintain contact.

A full report has been produced, including a number of recommendations, which the agencies involved in this review have endorsed. The shortcomings identified in the support to Brenda are deeply regrettable, although unlikely to have had any causal effect on her death. Reviews such as these, are about learning and we are encouraged that action has already been taken to address the recommendations.

Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board members will continue to seek assurance of progress to ensure all learning is embedded into practice.

Ends

The Brenda report and learning briefing is available online at www.southamptonlsab.org.uk

Deborah Stuart Angus was appointed as the Independent Chair of the Southampton Safeguarding Adult Board in January 2020. She is a qualified social worker with over 30 years of senior strategic and operational safeguarding, social care, health and business experience.

¹ Not her real name