

Yi SAR Joint Board Response

On behalf of the Independent Chairs of the City and Hackney, Islington, Lambeth and Newham Safeguarding Adults Boards

Safeguarding Adults Board members from all four London Boroughs want to begin by extending their condolences to the family and friends of “Yi”. Newham, City and Hackney and Islington Safeguarding Adults Boards recognise that Yi was let down by most of the organisations that were meant to help and provide support to him during the months covered by this review.

This review was jointly commissioned by the four Safeguarding Board chairs to ensure that there was an independent view of the circumstances surrounding Yi’s journey and that councils have in place effective systems to help homeless adults with care and support needs. The aim was to understand the issues faced by adults with complex needs who are homeless, and to implement learning from the findings to improve professional practice.

In developing the SAR we adopted a collaborative approach, working with housing practitioners and outreach agencies in addition to stakeholders from health, the police and other agencies. Together we explored how we can secure better outcomes for adults at risk who are in need of accommodation and support. Councils across London and also nationally face similar challenges to address safeguarding issues related to homelessness. Improving how we support people who are homeless is a long term commitment that all four local authorities have prioritised.

The four Boards have already begun work to reduce, as far as possible, the same things from happening again. Practitioners from the four local authorities involved in this case have come together to improve responses to adults at risk of, or experiencing, chronic homelessness. There will be further collaboration that will enhance the learning for professionals and improve how services are delivered to people who need support from the local authority that they interact with.

The report about Yi ended with recommendations for the local authorities and their Boards to implement. Each Board will hold partners to account in their implementation of their actions and monitor the impact on improving the safeguarding and wellbeing of adults at risk.

The review recommendations are also relevant to local authorities across London. The Chair of London Safeguarding Adult Board will be asked to lead on the implementation of specific recommendations with a view to providing London-wide guidance and best practice to safeguard adults at risk from homelessness.