

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
DEATH OF DANIELLE REID

DANIELLE REID 3(6)

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 May 2006 by the Chief Executive (1) advising of the publication in March 2006 of the report of the independent review into the death of Danielle Reid, commissioned by the Highland Child Protection Committee; (2) highlighting the main findings of the review, and (3) outlining the developments that had taken place in the three years since this incident.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Social Work, Community Services, Housing and Technical Services and Education Committees for consideration.

To: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE		Subject: DANIELLE REID INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HER DEATH, PUBLISHED MARCH 2006
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 13.06.06	Ref: GW/FS/FMcC	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

To advise Committee of the publication and findings of the report of the independent review into the circumstances surrounding the death of Danielle Reid, born 23.04.97. The report was commissioned by the Highland Child Protection Committee and published in March 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 Danielle was killed by her mother's partner in November 2002.
- 2.2 Tracey Reid, her mother and main carer, was known to misuse illegal drugs and alcohol. She also had a learning disability and a visual impairment.
- 2.3 During her short life Danielle experienced nine changes of address from areas in Dundee and Inverness.
- 2.4 In October 2002, the mother informed the school that the family was moving to Manchester. Between November 2002 and January 2003 the Police received several calls from extended family members expressing concern about Danielle.
- 2.5 In January 2003, a child's body, later identified as Danielle's, was found in a suitcase in the Caledonian Canal.
- 2.6 Highland Child Protection Committee commissioned an independent review into the circumstances of the case, the report of which was published in March 2006.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 As with previous enquiries into child deaths, key themes emerged from the review which relate to all agencies:
 - Information sharing
 - Record keeping
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Assessment
 - Training
- 3.2 A significant new issue which was identified from the review was the absence of any structured arrangements for the tracking of children, particularly between schools.
- 3.3 While there were efforts by extended family members to refer concerns to agencies (some of which were anonymous) and some limited interventions by the community and professionals, it is not clear who 'owned' this little girl.

- 3.4 The report was published three years after Danielle's body was found since when a number of developments have taken place which include
- (i) a review of Child Protection Committees
 - (ii) a programme of multi-agency inspections of child protection practice
 - (iii) the introduction of a national Framework for Standards and the introduction of a Children's Charter
 - (iv) the development of national arrangements to track school aged children
 - (v) the development of a Pan Lanarkshire protocol and training programme for working with children affected by substance misuse.

4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 The development of the Pan Lanarkshire protocol for working with children affected by substance misuse is consistent with the Scottish Executive policy Getting Our Priorities Right, Good Practice Guidance for Working with Children and Families Affected by Substance Misuse, published 2003.
- 4.2 The continuous development of arrangements to reduce the risk of harm to children has resource implications for all agencies. These are not necessarily new resources but the ability to in particular recruit and retain a competent and confident workforce, such as, social workers; consultant community paediatricians; police child and family officers.
- 4.3 Resource issues will be addressed in North Lanarkshire's response to the 'Letter of Assurance' sent by the Ministers for Children and Young People, Justice and Health and Community Care dated 22nd March 2006 and the subject of a separate report to Committee.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Committee is asked to :-
- (i) Note the content of the Report.
 - (ii) Remit the report to the Social Work, Community Services, Housing & Property Services and Education Committees for consideration

J. Whitefield

Chief Executive
11th May 2006

For further information on this report please contact Mary Fegan, Chair, North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee on telephone 01698-332001