

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held at**  
**2.00 pm on Thursday, 10 October 2013**

Present:

Members:

Lord Mayor, Councillor G Crookes (Chair)	
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor H Noonan	
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor R Lakha
Councillor M Ali	Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor A Andrews	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor M Auluck	Councillor A Lucas
Councillor S Bains	Councillor K Maton
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor C Miks
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor K Caan	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor E Ruane
Councillor C Fletcher	Councillor R Sandy
Councillor K Foster	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor D Galliers	Councillor H S Sehmi
Councillor D Gannon	Councillor B Singh
Councillor A Gingell	Councillor T Skipper
Councillor M Hammon	Councillor H Sweet
Councillor L Harvard	Councillor K Taylor
Councillor P Hetherton	Councillor R Thay
Councillor D Howells	Councillor S Thomas
Councillor J Innes	Councillor P Townshend
Councillor D Kershaw	Councillor S Walsh
Councillor T Khan	Councillor A Williams
Councillor A Khan	

Honorary Alderman

J. Gazey, T. Webb and J. Wright

Apologies:

Councillor F Abbott, D Chater, L Kelly, O'Boyle, D Skinner and D Welsh

**Public Business**

**77. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**78. Minutes Silence**

Members of the Council stood and observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect and in memory of Daniel Pelka.

**79. Motion Without Notice**

In accordance with paragraph 4.1.35.7 of the Constitution, it was moved by Councillor Townshend, seconded by Councillor Gannon and agreed that

paragraph 4.1.58 of the Constitution, which related to time limits for speeches be suspended and that the Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas and Councillor Duggins, as mover and seconder of the recommendations in relation to agenda item 3, headed "Serious Case Review Report into the Death of Daniel Pelka", (Minute 80 below refers), together with Councillor Blundell, as Leader of the Opposition, be allowed to speak for an unlimited time, with all other Members being allowed to speak for a maximum of five minutes.

**80. Serious Case Review Report into the Death of Daniel Pelka**

Further to Minute 21 of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2), the City Council considered, in detail, a Serious Case Review (SCR) report of the Coventry Local Safeguarding Board regarding Daniel Pelka. The Minutes of the Scrutiny Board (2) meeting were appended to the report for information.

Daniel Pelka was murdered in March 2012 by his mother and stepfather. Following their conviction in July 2013, and subsequent sentencing in August 2013, the Daniel Pelka Serious Case Review (SCR) report was published on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

In line with statutory guidance a SCR was commissioned to investigate and analyse the circumstances into Daniel's abuse and death. A SCR is held whenever a vulnerable child dies or is seriously injured or impaired and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to have been a factor. The purposes of this SCR reflected the relevant government guidance at the time to: -

- Establish what lessons were to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Identify clearly what those lessons were both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they would be acted on, and what was expected to change as a result; and
- Improve intra and inter-agency working to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The SCR report made 15 recommendations to local partners, covering domestic abuse, referral and assessment processes, training of staff, practice in schools and health as well as the requirement to disseminate messages to the Children's Workforce.

In accordance with paragraph 4.1.45 of the Constitution, the Leader, Councillor Mrs Lucas, moved the following additional Recommendations, which were supported unanimously:-

1. That the Executive Director, People, does immediately consult with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Partners with a view to the inclusion of the Leader of the Opposition or their nominee as a participating observer on the LSCB in line with Section 13(5) of the Children Act 2004 and to facilitate this, the Cabinet Member for

Education and the Chair of the Education and Children's Service's Scrutiny Board (2) be removed from the LSCB.

2. That this Council calls for a national debate and the setting up of a Commons Select Committee to consider all aspects of children's safeguarding, which may lead to changes in legislation where appropriate.

In addition, the Leader advised the Council that she had appointed His Honour Judge Hamilton (Retired) to be her Special Advisor on Child Protection Issues, with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED that the City Council unanimously:**

1. **Note the contents of the report.**
2. **Request that they receive a 6 monthly update report from Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) on delivery against the multi-agency action plan agreed through the independent Local Safeguarding Children Board.**
3. **Request that the Executive Director, People, does immediately consult with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Partners with a view to the inclusion of the Leader of the Opposition or their nominee as a participating observer on the LSCB in line with Section 13(5) of the Children Act 2004 and to facilitate this, the Cabinet Member for Education and the Chair of the Education and Children's Service's Scrutiny Board (2) be removed from the LSCB.**
4. **Calls for a national debate and the setting up of a Commons Select Committee to consider all aspects of children's safeguarding, which may lead to changes in legislation where appropriate.**

(Meeting closed at 2.45 pm)