

Witness Name: Michael Anthony Banks

Statement No.: 2/2 1

Exhibits:1

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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### Witness Statement of Michael Anthony Banks

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I, Michael Anthony Banks, will say as follows:-

1. From 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 until 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, I was contracted as the Independent Chair of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board and its successor, Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP).
2. Following a request from IICSA, I am making this statement subsequent to my original statement dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020, and subsequent to giving evidence at the IICSA hearing on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.
3. I have been directed to pages 105 and 106 of the transcript of my evidence in my response to a question by Professor Jay on the 'pledge on partnership challenge' which had been submitted by me as an exhibit. As stated, the Pledge was to have been reviewed in June but had been deferred to November due to Covid restrictions and a consequent partnership agreement to postponing audits. I then referred to Professional Practice Improvements, one of which was about 'challenge'. I referred to this process 'taking up national and local research and coming up with an action plan in relation to it'.
4. In furtherance of this I submit a copy of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Practice Improvement Model on the theme of 'Challenge and Escalation' (Exhibit MAB1) As it states, the model takes cognisance of findings from National Reports and Inspections, together with local inspections, audits and Serious Case Reviews. It identifies areas for improvement or which require further evaluation on effectiveness, embeddedness and impact. It identifies the gaps and there is an action plan contained within the document.
5. This theme of 'Challenge and Escalation' is one of 11 themes of what is now referred to as the Practice Improvement Framework (PIF). A report originally submitted to partners in July recommended a focus on 4 out of the 11 themes. At that time it was proposed that 'Challenge and Escalation' would be one of those themes. However, the report was deferred.
6. As previously stated, my contract with DSCP concluded at the end of September. It is my understanding that the principles of the PIF have been adopted and the proposed areas of focus are to be submitted to the DSCP Executive Group for approval in

November 2020. The templates already produced are to be adapted to include tangible outcomes for practical improvement.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed: **DPA** \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_27<sup>th</sup> October 2020\_\_\_\_\_

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**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**EXHIBIT 1 / 1**

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The Practice Improvement Model Theme: Challenge and Escalation [MAB1]