

Updated Press Release on the publication of the Serious Case Review into the death of Khyra Ishaq,

Monday July 26th 2010

Ian Matthews Education Otherwise new Media Spokesperson said, "We have not had sight of the Serious Case Review and we are not prepared to speculate on its findings, except to say that Birmingham Children's Services has been widely criticised for its lamentable record on child protection."

Following the convictions of the mother and stepfather for the manslaughter of Khyra Ishaq in February 2010 Education Otherwise issued a Press Release deploring the record of Birmingham's child protection services.

Read more here: <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org>

HOME EDUCATION CHARITY SLAMS BIRMINGHAM'S 'LAMENTABLE' CHILD PROTECTION FAILURE

A leading home education charity has criticised the actions of Birmingham Children's Services that led to the death of Khyra Ishaq. They are also outraged at suggestions that home education had any bearing on her death.

Fiona Nicholson, a Trustee of Education Otherwise (EO) said "Ofsted has already found that Birmingham is failing to protect children and questions have been raised over the high number of child deaths in the last few years. Fears for the safety of Khyra and other family members were made known to social services by the deputy head of her school both before and after she was de-registered. However it appears that Birmingham Social Services did not see sufficient cause to act on concerns.

"For anyone to blame home education is a red herring designed to distract attention from Birmingham's lamentable child protection record."

Ann Newstead, spokesperson for EO said "Once again it appears that staff were not trained in the detail of the powers already available to them and did not have sufficient expertise to correctly assess the risk. ."

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Notes for editors:

Birmingham child-protection services described as 'not fit for purpose':

http://www.publicservice.co.uk/news_story.asp?id=10821

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