

## **Briefing for Cabinet Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary met with officials on 9 October to discuss the SBUHB Independent maternity review. The Cabinet Secretary requested officials to speak with the health board to discuss the possibility of engaging with the families so the (alternative) review being undertaken by the families could be combined into the health board's review.

Officials met with the Chair and CEO of the health board and summarised the conversation and request from the Cabinet Secretary.

It came to light that the health board has repeatedly tried to engage the families and offered them to be involved in the engagement workstream of the independent review. One of the families initially agreed to take up post as co-chair of the engagement workstream, but then withdrew and disengaged from the process.

The Chair of the health board also stated that the review would take the findings from the families review and take the findings into account and inform the independent review.

The Chair of the health board felt the statement by Niche was a balanced one. There were concerns from the health board that although the families reference 70 families are involved in their (alternative) review, there was little evidence to suggest this number. The behaviour of the family has also put off some families from engaging in the health board review.

The Chair of the health board asked whether WG would consider taking over its review, as there is a major risk it could collapse. The Chair suggested this would be likely to happen should the family be forced into the review in any capacity. Official's response was this is a conversation that has not been had with the Cabinet Secretary, nor was it in our plans.

The Chair of the health board requested a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary in the next few days to discuss this.

### **Action points:**

- Officials to ask Jan to speak to families and see how they can be part of review and see how their review can feed into main independent review.
- Officials to arrange call between Cab Sec and Jan Williams
- Officials to think of plan B in case review collapses