



Haringey Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The Review we have to do when a child dies

Information for professionals

What is a Review and why is it needed?

Government legislation now requires every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to review the death of each child (up to the age of 18 years), resident in their area. This is in order to identify how many, if any, were either avoidable or potentially avoidable – the more we can understand about the reasons children die the more we may be able to learn from them. The information gathered by Reviews will also be a way to easily identify any trends or patterns that may be occurring in particular areas of the borough.

How does a Review happen?

Information about a child and the circumstances surrounding his/her death is collected and summarised into a short report from records held by hospitals, local health services, schools, police, children's social care services and any other involved agencies.

A small Child Death Overview Panel of doctors, other health

specialists and child care professionals must consider the report to be clear about:

- ⊙ what caused the child's death
- ⊙ whether, if death was unexpected, there was an appropriate rapid response
- ⊙ what additional training/resources might be needed in order to provide an effective inter-agency response
- ⊙ any public health issues
- ⊙ what support and treatment (if any) was offered to the child and to their family.

The Child Death Overview Panel must consider what lessons might be learned and whether they can make any recommendations to improve practice. These recommendations must be shared with the local health trusts, children's services and the police, as well as specialist agencies such as the fire service or traffic authorities, as appropriate. In some more complex circumstances cases may be referred on to a regional panel for a wider range of specialists to consider.

Local information will then be passed to the London Safeguarding Children Board, which will perform an annual analysis of data collected from all London boroughs.

What does this mean for you?

If you have been involved with a child that dies, either expectedly or unexpectedly, you may be asked to complete the initial data-gathering form from your casework records on behalf of your agency. Depending upon the level of information you are able to provide, you may then need to attend the Child Death Overview Panel at which the case is discussed.

The timing of the Panel at which the case is discussed may take several months as it cannot be done until all other enquiries are completed, such as the work of the pathologist and coroner, or any legal processes that are ongoing.

The Haringey Child Death Overview Panel can be contacted at Haringey LSCB, 48 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 4TY
Tel 020 8489 1472.

Please ask for the Child Death Overview Panel Administrator.

Further information about the role of Child Death Overview Panels can be found on the **London Safeguarding Children Board** website (www.londonscb.gov.uk); or from the Administrator at the above address.

Find out more

www.haringey.gov.uk/childprotection

www.ecm.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/childdeathreview

www.londonscb.gov.uk/child_death

