

Useful Contacts

The Child Bereavement Trust

Support and resources for bereaved parents and families

Helpline: 01494 446648 (office hours)

www.childbereavement.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends

Support and counselling for all bereaved persons

Helpline: 0845 123 2304

(10.00-16.00 / 18.30-22.30)

www.tcf.org.uk

CRUSE (Bereavement Care)

Support for families bereaved through a sudden infant death (cot death)

Helpline: 0870 167 1677 (09.30 – 17.00)

www.crusebereavement.org.uk

Foundation for the Study of Infant Death

Helpline: (020) 7233 2090

(09.00 – 23.00 Mon – Fri and 18.00 – 23.00 weekends)

www.sids.org.uk

SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

Helpline: (020) 7436 5881

(09.30 – 17.40 Mon – Fri)

www.uk-sands.org

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| If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | English |
| যদি আপনার এটি ইংরেজিতে বুঝতে অসুবিধা হয় তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Bengali |
| Si vous avez des difficultés à comprendre ce texte en anglais, veuillez contacter: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | French |
| અગર તે અંગ્રેજીમાં સમજવી મુશ્કેલ લાગે તો મહેરબાની કરીને Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 પર સંપર્ક કરો. | Gujarati |
| यदि इसे अंग्रेजी में समझने में समस्या हो तो कृपया Wandsworth Interpreting Service का (020) 8672 1043/3649 पर संपर्क करें। | Hindi |
| W razie problemów ze zrozumieniem tekstu w języku angielskim prosimy o kontakt z: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Polish |
| Se tem dificuldades em compreender isto em Inglês, por favor, contacte: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Portuguese |
| ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Punjabi |
| Hadday kugu adag tahay inaad ku fahamto Ingriis faclan la xiriiir: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Somali |
| Si tiene dificultad para entenderlo en inglés favor contactar a: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Spanish |
| இதை ஆங்கிலத்தில் புரிந்துகொள்வதில் சிரமம் இருந்தால் நீங்கள் தொடர்புகொள்ள வேண்டியது: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Tamil |
| اگر آپ کو انگریزی میں اسے سمجھنے میں دشواری کا سامنا ہو تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 | Urdu |

the review we
have to do
when a child dies

Information for parents,
families and carers

Introduction

Whenever a child dies, we need to carry out a review to ensure that we thoroughly examine what happened. This is a Government requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The more we understand about why your child died, the more we can try to help you understand more fully what happened to your child. We can also try to prevent the deaths of other children in the future. We also need to ensure that the professionals involved with your child worked together effectively and provided you with the proper support.

These reviews have been a legal requirement since April 2008.

The death of a child is always a tragedy. Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive, very difficult and painful subject. We understand that this can be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers. This leaflet explains what "rapid response" is and what the Child Death Overview Panel does. It also provides a list of organisations that you may find useful.

What the Law Requires

Government legislation now requires all local authorities to review the death of every child (up to the age of 18 years) in their area. They do this via their Local Safeguarding Children Board. This is because the Government believes that we should support families that have lost a child and help them understand how this tragedy has happened. It may also help other children and families in the future.

There are two separate parts to this process.

1. Rapid Response following an "unexpected death"

This "response" is conducted by a group of key professionals who come together to enquire into a sudden and unexpected death of a child.

This may mean a visit (but not always) to where your child died by a police officer, health

professional and / or social worker. This may take place within the first few days of your child's death.

This response is led and co-ordinated by a children's consultant called a designated paediatrician.

What is the purpose of the Rapid Response?

This helps to ensure that all relevant information is made available to the investigatory process and that the support offered to the family is co-ordinated.

2. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The CDOP will review all child deaths under 18 years. The panel is made up of doctors, other health specialists and childcare professionals. The panel considers information about every child that dies in the area and the circumstances of his / her death. This happens over a period of time once all the information has been gathered.

What is the purpose of the Panel?

The Child Death Overview Panel reviews all the information about a child's death and then considers whether they can make any recommendations to improve services for children and their families. These recommendations will be shared with:

- The local health trusts
- Children's services
- The police
- Specialist agencies, if appropriate, such as the fire service or traffic authorities.

These recommendations may assist in the planning of services for children and families in the future. A report with any recommendations will be written for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The panel is also there to ensure families get the right support following the child's death. You may, if you so wish, write to the Chair of the Panel at any time.

Parents/Carers may feel able to contribute

You will be invited to share information about your child that you feel may help the process. It is not possible for parents or family representatives to attend the Panel meetings. However, we would be happy to let you know our findings if you would find this helpful. All information we gather will be treated with the deepest respect and in strictest confidence. None of our findings, recommendations or reports will name your child or family, other than those which may go to your GP.

The Coroner

In certain circumstances, deaths must be reported to the Coroner. This will have been explained to you by the doctors following your child's death, if it is required. Whilst the Coroner is totally independent of the process, he/she will be asked to share any relevant information concerning the death of your child with the Panel. We will also share our information with him/her.

Other Information

The Wandsworth Child Death Overview Panel can be contacted via (020) 8725 1686 or email: kellyslade@nhs.net. Please ask for the Child Death Overview Panel Co-ordinator, Kelly Slade, or the Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel, Ruth Meadows.

Further information about the Child Death Overview Panel can be found on the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board website – www.wscb.org.uk or from the Government Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children from Harm 2006.