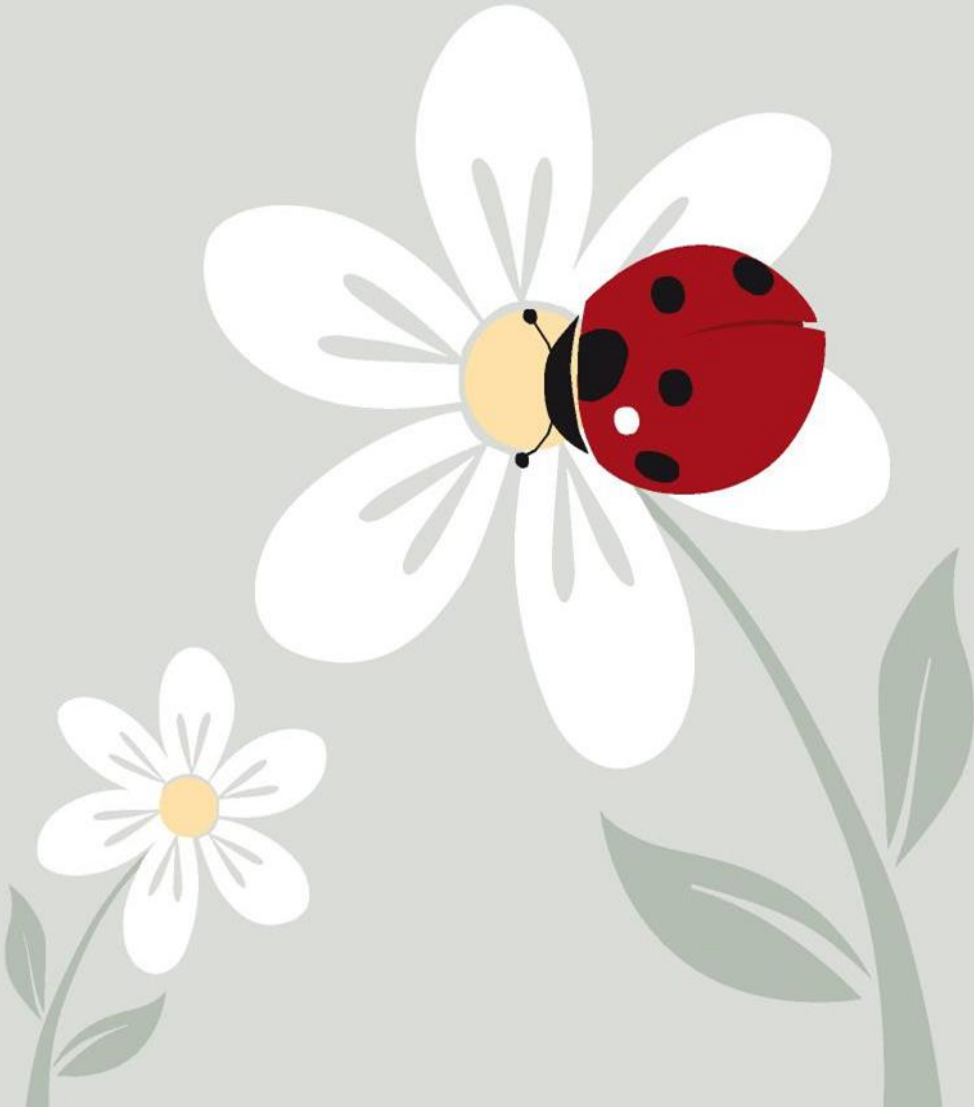


# Multi-agency Joint Agency Response (JAR) for sudden or unexpected child deaths.



## Who is in the team?

The Joint Agency Response Team consists of specialist nurses, police officers and social workers who are committed to ensuring that everything possible is done to find out why your child died and that your family gets the support you need at this time. The team are working on behalf of the Coroner.

The team recognizes that the death of any child is a tragedy. The time immediately following the death of a child is deeply distressing and yet important decisions need to be made.

The Joint Agency Response Team is led by a senior nurse who we call a case clinician. The case clinician will usually meet you at home with a police officer. The presence of the police officer may be a shock, but it is vital that they gather the information needed for all sudden or unexpected deaths.

The case clinician will co-ordinate team members who will include your GP, social workers, police officers, school nurses, and where appropriate, schoolteachers, or any other health or care professionals who were regularly having contact with your child. This team will undertake the investigation and is also responsible for considering what support may be needed by your family now and into the future.

We will, as far as we can, include you as partners in the investigation and provide as much information as is possible both now and in the future.

## What does the team do?

The coroner is notified of any sudden or unexpected child death by the police. Within three to five days following your child's death the case clinician will coordinate a professional's meeting so that everyone can share information. This is done to support the investigation and provides an opportunity for the team to formulate and co-ordinate a

plan which offers the support that you and your family may need at this sad time.

This plan will be discussed with you by a member of the team, for example the case clinician or child contact officer from Hertfordshire police.

If a postmortem needs to be held it will usually take place as soon as possible after the death of your child. You will be asked by the child contact officer or case clinician who you would like to explain the postmortem findings to you; this may be your own GP, a paediatrician or the Coroner's Officer.

## What is the Child Death Overview Panel?

In Hertfordshire the deaths of all children are also reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel represented by professionals from many agencies. The purpose of these reviews is to learn lessons and to make appropriate recommendations or champion campaigns that may improve the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and help to prevent further child deaths in similar circumstances.

## Questions?

We recognise that every family is unique. We will do our best to make sure we can meet your needs in a way that helps you. There may be occasions when professionals say things you may not understand. Your case clinician will leave you with their contact number and will answer any questions you have.



Can I ask for a professional working with my child to attend the meeting?  
*Yes, please let us know if there is a relevant professional working with your child who you would like us to consider inviting to the information sharing meeting.*

Do I need to contact anyone to let them know my child has died?  
*Yes, please contact your Dentist, Opticians or any other private agencies that have planned or regular follow up with your child.*

For further support, advice and information contact:

**The Child Death Helpline: 0800 282 986** bereaved families will be offered a telephone card to enable them to access this helpline free of charge.

**Home Supporting Bereaved Children & Young People - Grief Encounter** <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>

**Lullaby Trust Bereavement support helpline: 0808 802 6868** or email [support@lullabytrust.org.uk](mailto:support@lullabytrust.org.uk) for anyone who has experienced a sudden or unexpected death of a child or baby  
<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/bereavement-support/>

**Sands Helpline: 08081643332** for anyone who has been affected by the death of a baby <https://www.sands.org.uk/support-you/how-we-offer-support>

**CRUSE Helpline: 0808 808 1677** for bereavement support and advice  
<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/helpline>

**Samaritans: 08457909090** 24hr helpline to support those in crisis  
<https://www.samaritans.org/>

**Winstons Wish Helpline:** Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm **08088 020021**  
support parents and children after the death of a sibling.  
<https://www.winstonswish.org>

**Stand by Me:** supports bereaved children, young people and their families in North Herts and Stevenage **07469255139**  
<https://www.stand-by-me.org.uk/contact-us>