

What we have to do when a child dies

Information for parents, families and carers



This leaflet is being provided to explain to you what we have to do when a child dies.

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 or young person (under 18 years) who lived in their area. This is because, in doing so, we may find ways of doing things differently that helps other children and families in the future.

How does a review happen?

Information about each child and how they died is collected together and summarised into a short report. This information comes from records held by hospitals, local health services (GPs and health visitors), schools, police, children's services or other agencies whose staff knew the child. The report also includes something about the family so that the Panel can better understand the circumstances of the death.

A Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) that includes doctors, other health specialists, children's services staff and the police meet regularly to look at the reports. They want to be clear about the circumstances of your child's death so they can decide whether to recommend changes or improvements to services for children that might prevent similar deaths in the future. Any recommendations are passed on to the people responsible for planning and managing services for children locally. The recommendations might also go to specialist agencies such as the fire and rescue service or traffic authorities if this applies.

The Panel is not concerned with blame but focuses on identifying if anything can be changed to prevent similar deaths in the future. The panel also looks at what support or involvement was offered to the child and their family up to the time of the death and afterwards. The Panel can recommend changes to these arrangements where need be.



How can you contribute?

The LSCBs and NHS Trusts in Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral have agreed to have a combined Child Death Overview Panel, entitled Merseyside CDOP.

Knowsley LSCB is continuing with its own distinct CDOP.

You can contact the Panel if you wish to express your views, share any information that you might have or ask any questions. You may, if you prefer, ask somebody who is supporting you to contact the panel on your behalf to pass on your views. Contact details are provided overleaf.

It is not possible for parents, carers or family representatives to attend the panel meeting as this is a meeting of professionals to discuss not only the individual case, but also wider public health issues.

We will take your information and questions into consideration but we are not involved in deciding whether anyone is to blame. All the information we gather will be treated with the greatest respect and in strictest confidence. We promise that none of our findings, suggested changes or reports will name or identify your child or family. You are welcome to access a copy of the CDOP annual report that will be available on the website of each Local Safeguarding Children Board involved.

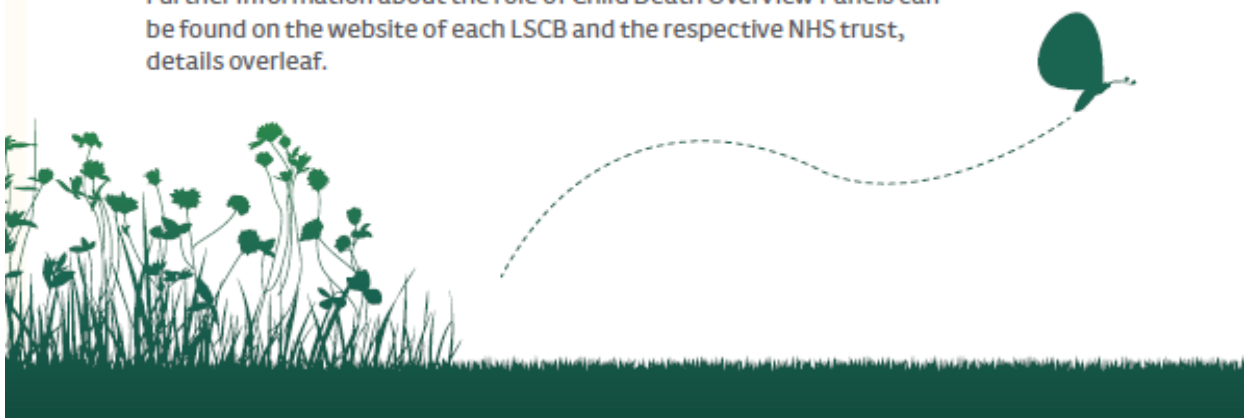
Should you want to share information or ask questions you can do so by contacting Merseyside CDOP Manager who will respond or convey them to the appropriate panel:

Telephone: 07739703929 / 0151 233 1151

e-mail: Irene.wright@liverpool.gcsx.gov.uk or

Letter: 2nd Floor, Millennium House, 60 Victoria Street,
Liverpool, L1 6HF

Further information about the role of Child Death Overview Panels can be found on the website of each LSCB and the respective NHS trust, details overleaf.



Please note new contact details as follows:

Telephone: 0151 225 4956

Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board

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