

# Appendix 3: LSCB Process: Responding to Cases that May Warrant the Undertaking of a Serious Case Review

CIGCON1



## 1. Consider Criteria for Undertaking a Serious Case Review (SCR)

### Working Together (2015:75):

Cases which meet one of the following criteria i.e. regulation 5(2)(a) and (b)(i) or 5 (2)(a) and (b)(ii) **must always** trigger an SCR.

**5 (1) (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.**

**(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case is one where:**

**(a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and**

**(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.**

In addition, an SCR should always be carried out when a child dies in custody, in police custody, on remand or following sentencing, in a Young Offender Institution, in a secure training centre or a secure children's home, or where the child was detained under the Mental Health Act 2005. Regulation 5(2)(b)(i) includes cases where a child died by suspected suicide.

Where a case is being considered under regulation 5(2)(b)(ii), unless it is clear that there are no concerns about inter-agency working, the LSCB must commission an SCR. *The final decision on whether to conduct the SCR rests with the LSCB Chair.*

### Looked After Children

All cases of a child, that is looked after by the local authority, where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either the child has died or seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together, are **required** to be referred to the LSCB Critical Incident Group for consideration.

### Conducting Reviews on Cases Which Do Not Meet the SCR Criteria

LSCBs must also consider conducting reviews on cases which do not meet the SCR criteria.

If a SCR is not required because the criteria in regulation 5(2) are not met, the LSCB may still decide to commission an SCR, or they may choose to commission an alternative form of case review; child death review, review of a child protection incident that falls below the threshold for an SCR, review or audit of practice in one or more agencies (WT2015: 72) so that valuable lessons about how organisations are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Although these cases are not required by statute these cases are important for highlighting good practice as well as identifying improvements which need to be made to local services.

Cases that are considered necessary to be reviewed by the Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board Critical incident Group are required to be referred using the SCR Request for Consideration Form (CIGSCR1) (page 3).

## 2. Refer Case to the LSCB Critical Incident Group:

### SCR Request for Consideration Form (CIGSCR1) (p3)

**Strategy Meeting:** In cases where a strategy meeting is held, chaired by the safeguarding unit, at summary of the meeting attendees should be asked as to whether they consider that the circumstances of the case requires consideration by the LSCB Critical Incident Group for the undertaking of a serious case review.

If it is agreed that the case warrants referral to the LSCB CIG then the Chair of the meeting is responsible for sending the SCR Request for Consideration form to the Chair of the LSCB Critical Incident Group and LSCB Business Manager.

**Other Cases:** If a professional, following review with their agency safeguarding lead, consider that a case requires consideration by the LSCB CIG to undertake a SCR, agency safeguarding lead should refer a summary of the case using the SCR Request for Consideration form to the Chair of the LSCB Critical Incident Group and LSCB Business Manager.

Where it is considered that a case requires consideration by the LSCB CIG, to undertake a SCR or other form of review for example a child death review or review of a child protection incident (WT2015; 72) a summary of the case should be referred to the Chair of the CIG and LSCB Business Manager using the **SCR Request for Consideration Form (CIGSCR1) (page 3)**

The Chair of the CIG and LSCB Business Manager, following appropriate consultation with the Independent chair of LSCB, will advise the referrer as to whether the case is to be referred to the LSCB CIG or not. [Reasons for non-referral to the CIG will be advised].

**The final decision on whether to conduct a SCR rests with the LSCB Chair.**

## 3. Response to Cases Referred to LSCB CIG for Consideration

- i) Referral to next monthly CIG meeting is undertaken by LSCB Admin.
- ii) CIG members are notified of the case and are provided with name, address and date of birth of those involved. CIG members complete and return Request for Information Forms (CIGINF1) 2013.
- iii) Information from settings is considered and decision made as to whether a review, SCR or other, is deemed necessary.
- iv) CIG Decision;

- **SCR agreed:** LSCB SCR Action Plan is implemented.

[If decision to progress with a review is unable to be made, further information may be requested and a further date to meet set.]

- **Review, other than a SCR, agreed:** LSCB Business Manager and LSCB admin will progress as necessary.
- **Review not required:** Decision of the LSCB CIG is recorded. Agency referrer is notified of the decision by the LSCB Business Manager.

Any CIG decision to progress / or not by means of a SCR will be notified to the agency referrer by the LSCB Business Manager.

- v) All cases notified to CIG are included on the LSCB CIG/ SCR spreadsheet for review and oversight as necessary.