

Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel

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 happens when a child dies.

The death of a child is a devastating loss to every family and it is important that all child deaths are reviewed carefully to learn as much as possible. There could ways of doing things differently which might help other families in the future.

It is a legal requirement that the death of all children under the age of 18 is reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel.

The Panel is made up of professionals – which include Doctors, health specialists, Police, Children’s Services, Education, Legal Services and Public Health professionals – who meet several times a year to review all of the child deaths in Merseyside and Isle of Man. Other professionals may be invited to give specialist advice where this is needed.

Before the Meeting

Information about your child will be collected from records held by hospitals, local health services (GP, Health Visitors and School Health), School, Police and other agencies who knew your child. This information is pulled together into a report alongside some information about your family to help understand your child better. The report will also look at what support you and your child were offered up to the point of their death and also what support your family was offered afterwards. This information is then anonymized and is shared at the Panel for review.

The Panel Meeting

Using the anonymized reports, the Panel focuses on if there is anything that can be learned from the death of a child which could be used to improve services to bereaved families in the future.

The Panel is not concerned with attributing blame for the death of your child.

The Panel makes recommendations and reports on any learning to the Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships (LSCP). These recommendations can be found in an Annual Report, which is available on the LSCP website, which anyone can read but will not contain any information which could identify your child or family.

How can you contribute?

Parents and carers are not invited to attend the Panel meetings, but you can contact the Panel if you wish to share your views, share information you might have or ask any questions.

Any information that you share will be taken into consideration by the Panel, but we are not involved in deciding if anyone was to blame. All the information we receive will be treated with the greatest respect and in the strictest confidence.

We promise that none of our findings, suggested changes or reports will name or identify your child or family.

Should you want to share information or ask any questions you can do so by contacting the Merseyside and Isle of Man CDOP Team who will respond or convey you to the appropriate agency.

Telephone: 01512331151 / 07739703929

Email: CDOPTeam@liverpool.gov.uk

Letter: CDOP Team, First Floor Gerard Majella Courthouse, Boundary Street, Liverpool, L5 2QD

LSCP Websites:

Isle of Man: <https://www.safeguardingboard.im/>

Knowsley: <https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/>

Liverpool: <https://liverpoolscp.org.uk/scp>

Sefton: <https://seftonscp.org.uk/scp>

St Helens: <https://sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/scp>

Wirral: <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/>

Useful Contacts:

A list of further support resources is available on request.

Alder Centre

01512525391

alder_centre@alderhey.nhs.uk

Available weekdays 9am – 5pm (4:30pm on Friday)

Providing bereavement care and education for anyone affected by the death of a child of any age.

Child Bereavement UK

www.childbereavementuk.org

08000288840

Support for families and education for professionals when a baby or child dies or is dying; or when a child is facing bereavement.

Child Death Helpline

0800282986

www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

Mon to Sun 7pm – 10pm

Mon, Thurs and Fri – 10am – 1pm

Tues and Wed – 10am - 4pm

National confidential freephone service for all those affected by the death of a child.

The Lullaby Trust

08088026868 (Freephone)

Email: support@lullabytrust.org.uk

www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Offering confidential bereavement support to anyone affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or young child.