

## Introduction

Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive and painful subject. We understand that this can be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers. We seek to ensure that adequate support is available at this difficult time. This leaflet explains the review process we need to carry out and also provides a list of organisations you may find useful.

## What the Law Requires

Since 1 April 2008, the law requires each local authority, via their Local Safeguarding Children Board, to review the death of each child (up to the age of years) in their area. This is because the Government believes that it may help other children and families in the future.

## There are two separate parts to this process:

### 1. The Rapid Response Process

This "response" is conducted by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of looking into a sudden and unexpected death of a child.

This response is led by a children's consultant called a designated paediatrician or a nominated senior healthcare professional.

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

This may sometimes mean a visit to the family by a police officer, health professional and / or social worker. This may take place within the first few days after the child's death.

### 2. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The CDOP will review each child death under 18 years. The panel is made up of doctors, other health specialists and childcare professionals. The panel considers information about each child that dies in the area and the circumstances of their death, once all the information has been gathered.

## What is the purpose of the Panel?

The Child Death Overview Panel reviews all the information about each 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 local health trusts, children's services, the police, and where appropriate with specialist agencies such as the fire service or traffic authorities.

These recommendations may assist in the planning of services for children and families in the future. An annual report with any recommendations will be written for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

## You 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.

All information we gather will be treated in strictest confidence. None of our findings, recommendations or reports will name your child or your family.

## The Coroner

In certain circumstances, deaths must be reported to the Coroner. This will have been explained to you by the doctors following the child's death, if it is required. CDOP will require consent from you to obtain the Post Mortem report. This will help to fully understand why your child died.

## Useful Contacts

### The Child Bereavement Trust

Support and resources for bereaved parents and families

Helpline: 01494 568900 (office hours)

[www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk)

email: [support@childbereavement.org.uk](mailto:support@childbereavement.org.uk)

### The Compassionate Friends

Support and counselling for all bereaved persons

Helpline: 0845 123 2304

(10.00 – 16.00 / 19.00 – 22.00 daily)

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

email: [helpline@tcf.org.uk](mailto:helpline@tcf.org.uk)

### CRUSE (Bereavement Care)

Support for families bereaved

Helpline: 0844 477 9400

(09.30 – 17.00)

[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

email: [helpline@cruse.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cruse.org.uk)

### The Lullaby Trust

Helpline: Freephone for landline or mobile  
0808 802 6868

10am - 6pm Monday to Friday

6pm - 10pm Weekends and Bank Holidays

[www.lullabytrust.org.uk](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk)

email: [support@lullabytrust.org.uk](mailto:support@lullabytrust.org.uk)

### SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

(Mon – Fri 09.30 – 17.30)

Tues & Thurs 18.00 – 22.00)

[www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

email: [helpline@uk-sands.org](mailto:helpline@uk-sands.org)

## Other Information

Your Local CDOP can be contacted via the following methods:

### The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham CDOP

Liz Winnett, CDOP Manager

Telephone: 0208 227 3578 or

Email: [cdop.bdh@nhs.net](mailto:cdop.bdh@nhs.net)

### The London Borough of Havering CDOP

Nick Nicholls, CDOP Manager

Telephone: 01708 433529 or

Email: [cdophavering@nhs.net](mailto:cdophavering@nhs.net)

### The London Borough of Redbridge CDOP

Monica Clarke, CDOP Co-ordinator

Telephone: 020 8708 5961 or

Email: [nem-tr.cdop@nhs.net](mailto:nem-tr.cdop@nhs.net)

Further information about the CDOP can be found on <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

**If you would like this document provided in an alternative format or a different language, please contact your local CDOP contact as listed above**

# The Child Death Overview Panel

Information for parents, families and carers

Barking & Dagenham  
**Safeguarding Children Board**



Redbridge  
**L S C B**  
Local Safeguarding Children Board