



The Isle of Wight Child Death Overview Process

**Information for parents,
carers and families**

There are no words to describe how difficult the death of a child is for any family. This leaflet explains why professionals are required to carry out a review of the circumstances which led to your child's death. It also explains what support there is for families and carers who are dealing with the death of a child.

What sort of review will occur and why is it needed?

The law requires local councils to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board, with a membership that represents all of the organisations that provide services to children. This includes schools, doctors, nurses, the police and Children's Social Care.

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board is required to have a local Child Death Overview Panel, to review the deaths of all children up to the age of 18 who normally live on the Isle of Wight.

The Panel believes that if we can understand better why children die there may be lessons to learn that improve the services offered to children, and we may be able to prevent similar deaths occurring in the future on the Isle of Wight.

Sadly many child deaths are not preventable, but the Panel needs to consider all deaths to get an overall understanding.

The rapid response

There will be discussions and sometimes meetings shortly after your child's death between a paediatrician and other health workers, police and social workers, to share information and plan how best to support your family.

You may also be offered a visit at home by a paediatrician who will discuss the events leading up to your child's death and provide you with information about what will be happening next and also offer support to your family.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Panel will ask organisations involved with your child, such as the hospital or school, to provide as much information as possible about your child's health and the circumstances that led up to their death.

As it takes some time to gather all the information, the Panel meeting may take place several months after your child's death. This meeting may happen even later if there are other inquiries going on, such as the work of the pathologist or coroner.

The Panel will consider:

- Any illness, disability or long-term condition your child had;
- The medical care and treatment that your child received;
- Whether there have been any previous child deaths in the family;
- Any issues in the family which may have had an impact on your child's life or death;
- What services your child and family received and whether these could have been better;
- How your child's death compares to others and any similar factors or risks involved;
- Current knowledge or research related to your child's death.

They will consider whether any action is necessary to try to prevent similar deaths occurring in the future, and they may make recommendations to ensure these actions are carried out.

The names and personal details of your child and other family members will not be known by the Panel. All of the information we gather will be treated with respect and sensitivity, and stored and shared securely.

Who knows what is said in a Panel meeting?

Notes are taken at the meeting so that a record can be made about what was discussed and what decisions were made. The notes will only be shared with the professionals who attended the meeting. Any recommendations to improve services will be sent to the organisation involved, via the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board.

Can I attend a Rapid Response or Panel meeting?

It is not possible for parents or family members to attend these meetings. However we will inform you of any major recommendations made as a result of the discussions.

Annual Report

In collaboration with the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Panel will contribute to an annual report, including a summary of child deaths on the Isle of Wight in the year. This will not identify any individual children. Information will also be sent at the end of each year to the government who will publish a national annual report.

Bereavement Support:

Cruse Bereavement Care (for adults)
0808 808 1677
cruse.org.uk

Child Death Helpline (answered by bereaved parents)
0800 282 986/ 0808 800 6019
childdeathhelpline.org.uk

Child Bereavement UK (support for families and professionals)
0800 02 888 40
childbereavementuk.org

Childhood Bereavement Network (a hub for those supporting bereaved children)
childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk

Simon Says (support for bereaved children in Hampshire)
023 8064 7550
simonsays.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends (support for families)
0345 123 2304
tcf.org.uk

Bliss (support after the death of a premature baby)
0808 801 0322
bliss.org.uk

Lullaby Trust (support and advice after the sudden death of an infant)
0808 802 6868
lullabytrust.org.uk

Sands (support for anyone affected by the death of a baby before, during or shortly after birth)
0808 164 3332
uk-sands.org

Finalised: 22.10.2015
Review date: 22.10.2016