



Serious Case Review

Information for Parents and Carers

Introduction

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board (IOWSCB) brings together local agencies to cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is set up under the Children Act 2004.

The IOWSCB is required by government legislation to consider a Serious Case Review when: abuse or neglect is known or suspected AND either a child dies OR a child is seriously harmed and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child.

Abuse means maltreating a child, by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse can be emotional, physical or sexual.

Neglect means a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

We acknowledge this is likely to be a very difficult time for you and we want to learn all we can for the future.

The IOWSCB believes that you should know about the review and have the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you have and share any feedback about the help you received.

This leaflet has been designed to explain what happens and what support we can offer.

What is a Serious Case Review?

The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to establish how organisations, agencies and professionals work together to support families to keep children and young people safe. It will consider whether there are any lessons which may be learnt about the way organisations have worked with you and your family.

This is not an enquiry into the cause of your child's death or serious harm.

It is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police and/or Coroner and it concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved with your family.

A case review panel which consists of senior managers from those organisations will meet to have a close look at the work of all the professionals and agencies who have been involved with you and your family.

The members of this panel could include representatives from Health, Children's Social Care, Education, Police and Legal Services.

Other organisations and agencies may be asked to attend or give information.

Once it is known that a Serious Case Review has been called, each organisation or agency will be asked to gather and analyse any professional records relating to your child and family until the Serious Case Review has been completed.

It is an independent process conducted by an external reviewer appointed by the chair of the IOWSCB.

The process reports to Ofsted.

What happens next?

Each agency or organisation will provide the Serious Case Review panel with full details of when and what services they gave you and your family.

The panel will consider all the reports in detail in order to find out if the expected standards have been met, and organisational or agency policies and procedures have been followed.

A summary of the decisions that were made, services which were either offered and/or provided and any other actions that were taken will be considered in detail.

This is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies and organisations work together to safeguard children and young people on the Isle of Wight.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to talk about any involvement that either your child or your family had with individual agencies and organisations.

When the Serious Case Review has been completed agencies and organisations will then consider what actions they may need to take to change the way they support children and their families in the future.

The recommendations made by the external reviewer will be included in an anonymised report which will be published.

An IOWSCB representative will inform you of the outcome of the Serious Case Review and of any lessons that have been learnt.

A member of the Serious Case Review panel (usually the Chair) can arrange to meet with you to discuss this process and your contact with the organisations, agencies and professionals involved.

A convenient date, time and venue will be arranged.

Having support during this meeting is encouraged. This could be your solicitor, or any other professional you think appropriate, or a family member or a family friend. Home visits will be agreed if you wish. Alternatively a venue of your choice will be considered.

If you wish to arrange such a meeting please contact the IOWSCB.