



# **Serious Case Review**

## **Information for Professionals**

## 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\*.

The IOWSCB believes that you should have the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you have and share any feedback about the way your organisation worked with other agencies.

This leaflet has been designed to explain what happens and what support is on offer.

For further information on the criteria for a Serious Case Review see Working Together 2015.

## 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 your organisation worked with the child and their family.

This is not an inquiry into the cause of the 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 the 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 the 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 the child and their 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 the child and their 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. Serious case reviews are approached with a drive to learn and not to blame.

You will have the opportunity to talk about any involvement that your organisation had with the child or their family at a practitioner event.

Having support during this process is important. Speak to your line manager about what support you think you need, and ask if you can meet with another professional who has been part of a previous Serious Case Review to hear about their experience of the process.

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.

You will be invited to an IOWSCB multi-agency Learning Lessons event to share the lessons learnt from the Serious Case Review.