

The chair of Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership, Derek Benson, said: "The death of a baby is a tragedy and we would like to offer our sympathies to the parents in this case and to their wider family as they continue to come to terms with their loss.

"Our job as an independent safeguarding partnership is to look at the events surrounding a case like this and see what lessons can be learned.

"Our review has concluded that the death of Child I was not predictable or preventable by any of the agencies involved.

"However, while it has highlighted many aspects of good practice, the review has also highlighted areas for improvement.

"Child I's parents were given clear and consistent messages regarding safe sleeping. But the review has shown scope for improvement, especially concerning conversations with families about alcohol consumption and planning for occasions when they may drink alcohol.

"There are also lessons to be learned about consistency of care.

"I am pleased that the relevant organisations have examined these areas and that action has been taken in response to our recommendations.

"We would like to remind parents that the safest place for your baby to sleep is a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first six months, even during the day. Never sleep on a sofa or in an armchair with your baby. Sleeping on a sofa or in an armchair with your baby is one of the most high-risk situations for them.

"Make sure that you do not accidentally fall asleep with your baby on a sofa. If you think you might fall asleep, put **your** baby down in a safe place to sleep. Never sleep with your baby **if you are using alcohol or drugs (prescription or recreational) or if you or your partner smoke.**

"Babies should be placed on their backs to sleep on a firm, flat surface. Sleep pods or other soft surfaces are not recommended. It is important to ensure your baby has a safe sleep environment for every sleep not just at night. **Every sleep counts.**"

For more information on safer sleeping, please visit www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/

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