

Purpose of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews:

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Reviews should promote learning and development and should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents.

Criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR)

16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) states:

Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if –

- a. *The child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area; or*
- b. *While normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.*

We will notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel of any incident that meets the notification criteria, using the approved online notification process.

The PSCP will then arrange for a 'Rapid Review' to be undertaken on the case.

The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time;
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately;
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

Meeting the criteria does not mean that the safeguarding partners will automatically carry out a local child safeguarding practice review. The Rapid Review will determine whether a LCSP review is appropriate, taking into account that the overall purpose of a review is to identify improvements to practice. Decisions on whether to undertake reviews will be made transparently and the rationale clearly evidenced.

What other criteria must we take into account?

Does the case highlight the following with regard to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare:

- Improvements that need to be made?
- Recurrent themes?
- Concerns regarding how one or more agencies worked together?

We should also have regard to whether there are:

- Concerns about the actions of a particular agency?
- No agency involvement & this is a concern?
- Multiple safeguarding agencies involved – perhaps because the family have moved around the UK?
- Issues for children in institutional settings?

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

The Learning from Children and Practice Committee (LCPC) will work with the reviewer to agree the method by which the review should be conducted. The methodology should provide a way of looking at and analysing frontline practice as well as organisational structures and learning. The methodology selected should be able to draw out recommendations that will improve outcomes for children. All reviews should reflect the child's perspective and the family context.

The review should be proportionate to the circumstances of the case, focus on potential learning, and establish and explain the reasons why the events occurred as they did.

- As part of their duty to ensure that the review is of satisfactory quality, the safeguarding partners should seek to ensure that: practitioners are fully involved in reviews and invited to contribute their perspectives without fear of being blamed for actions they took in good faith;
- Families, including surviving children, should be invited to contribute to reviews. This is important for ensuring that the child is at the centre of the process. Families should be helped to understand how they are going to be involved and their expectations should be managed appropriately and sensitively.

The final report should include:

- A summary of any recommended improvements to be made by persons in the area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- An analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not in respect of matters covered by the report.

Any recommendations should be clear on what is required of relevant agencies and others collectively and individually, and by when, and focus on improving outcomes for children.

Process for referring cases to the PSCP Learning from Children and Practice Committee (LCPC):

Each agency must have arrangements for identifying cases that may meet the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review

- The agency's LCPC representative should notify the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP) Team of a referral and confirm this in writing within 48 hours using the referral form.
- Locally the three safeguarding partners have ultimate responsibility for deciding whether to conduct a local review. The Independent Chair will also be informed to allow independent scrutiny of the decision making process.

Further Information:

HIPS Safeguarding Children Procedures Manual - [Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents Working Together 2018](#)

