

### Recommendations

Each review ends with a set of recommendations reflecting the learning from the case. Recommendations can be focused towards individual agencies, all LSCB member agencies or the LSCB itself. The LSCB is asked to adopt the recommendations and having done so the relevant agencies are expected to implement them. Each recommendation has a specific intended outcome, and a timescale within which it is to be undertaken. A report on progress is also made to the LSCB. Recommendations for each Serious Case Review case can be found in the Executive Summaries of Serious Case Reviews. The Executive Summary is published on the LSCB website unless there are exceptional circumstances and agreement has been reached with DCSF and Ofsted that it would not be in the public interest to do so.

Where the criteria for a Serious Case Review was not met but it was agreed by the Panel and LSCB Chair that lessons could be learned, the LSCB will receive a report on the findings and any recommendations made.

### Feedback to People Involved in the Review

It is good practice to share the IMR with anyone who has contributed to enable them to reflect on it in order to learn and implement the lessons from the Reports findings. Managers may take further actions as required. This is part of the agency's responsibilities following a Review, and would not be shared or discussed with the SCR Panel or Writers Group, other than to confirm that it had taken place.

### Learning From Serious Case Reviews

As well as feedback to the people involved, the LSCB are working to develop ways of helping everyone to learn from Serious Case Reviews through active multi agency engagement, awareness briefings, newsletters and training.

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ Maintain up to date case records with chronologies
- ✓ Share concerns and refer as appropriate
- ✓ Support and provide information for reviews
- ✓ Take on board learning from case reviews
- ✓ Implement practice as appropriate.
- ✓ SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



## SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS:

## INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

*Safeguarding Children is Your Business,  
My Business, It's Everyone's Business!*



### Reviewing & Investigative Function of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

One of the most important functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board is to undertake reviews of serious cases and to advise the local authority and its Board partners on lessons to be learned (Regulation 5(e) The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument no. 2006/90.).

The main purpose of a serious case review (SCR) is for agencies and individuals to learn lessons to improve the way in which they work both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The lessons learned should be disseminated effectively, and the recommendations implemented in a timely manner so that the changes required result, wherever possible, in children being protected from suffering or being likely to suffer harm in the future. In order to achieve this learning it is crucial that the child and his or her welfare, wishes and feelings are at the centre of the SCR, informing the scope and terms of reference as well as the ways in which the information is presented at all stages of the process, including the conclusions and recommendations

### The Purpose Of Serious Case Reviews

The purpose of SCRs carried out under this guidance are to:

- Establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result; and
- As a consequence improve intra and inter-agency working and so better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### Serious Case Reviews Are Not:

Inquiries into how a child died or was seriously harmed, or into who is culpable. That is a matter for Coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate.

Part of any disciplinary enquiry or process. Where information emerges in the course of a SCR indicating that disciplinary action should be initiated under established procedures, the relevant processes should be undertaken separately to the SCR process. Alternatively, some SCRs may be conducted concurrently with (but separate to) disciplinary action. In some cases (for example, alleged institutional abuse) it may be necessary to initiate disciplinary action as a matter of urgency to safeguard and promote the welfare of other children.

### Making A Referral For A Serious Case Review or Management Review

If you become aware of a case which you believe fits the criteria for a serious case review or management review you should discuss this with your manager or senior officer and s/he will discuss your concerns with your LSCB agency representative. If following this discussion it is agreed to make a referral for consideration, you will be advised to contact the LSCB Office who will provide a SCR Referral form and explain the next steps. Having made the referral it will be considered by the serious case review sub committee who will make a recommendation to the Chair of the LSCB as to whether the information, having been thoroughly considered, meets the criteria laid down in Working Together to Safeguard Children (DCSF 2009) for a Serious Case Review.

### Options For Learning

Before a serious case review is conducted the case referred will be carefully considered against the criteria for conducting a serious case review. In some circumstances it may be agreed by the sub committee that the case does not meet the criteria but it is still likely that it will be subjected to another form of review if it is felt there is learning that can be obtained from it.

Examples of this may be a review by an individual agency or a local case review conducted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

### How Is A Review Conducted?

Where the LSCB Chair confirms the criteria has been met for a Serious Case Review, organisations that have had involvement with the child, their family and any other relevant people, will be asked to appoint Individual Management Review Authors (IMRA's) to provide an Individual Management Report (IMR). Those conducting IMRs will not have been directly concerned with the child or family, or be the immediate line manager of the practitioner(s) involved, or be members of the Serious Case Review Panel. An independent person chairs the Serious Case Review Panel on behalf of the LSCB.

The IMR will include a chronology of the agencies involvement, a review of all case files, a record of who has been interviewed, any other relevant information and will include a conclusion and recommendations to assist with lessons to be learned.

Once complete all IMRs will be submitted to the panel for review and an independent overview report writer will bring together and draw overall conclusion from the information and analysis contained in them and any other relevant reports.

### The Overview Report will include;

- An analysis of the standard of practice
- Any lessons that can be learnt about to improve practice
- Recommendations for individual agencies from the Individual Management Reviews
- Recommendations to be implemented through the LSCB Inter Agency Action Plan