

Pan Berkshire Response to the New Child Death Statutory and Operational Guidance (Oct 2018)

In 2008, Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) were statutorily established in England under the aegis of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with the responsibility of reviewing the deaths of all children (0 to <18 years) in their resident population.

In Berkshire the CDOP is a subgroup of the six Unitary Authority Local Safeguarding Children Boards arrangements. It is made up of representatives from across the county from a range of organisations, including health, social care and police. East Berks CCG is one of these representatives.

The purpose of the CDOP, (as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006) is to collect and analyse information about each child death in order to identify any changes that we can make or actions we can take that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future and share learning with colleagues regionally and nationally.

In October 2018 new guidance from Government titled 'Child Death Review (CDR) Statutory and Operational Guidance' has set out the key features of a good review process when a child dies, combining both statutory requirements and best practice.

East Berkshire CCG, as a key statutory partner was tasked with reviewing the guidance procedure and practise expectations are in place by September 2019.

This review was completed in partnership with all Berkshire statutory partners and the findings have been reported back to CDOP executive members, Local Authority Children's Services Director of Children's Services and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) safeguarding leads. It identified that East Berks CCG and its partners have strong processes for child death investigations and reviews but some changes are required in order to align our practice and processes with the new guidance.

The Pan Berkshire Response to the New Child Death Statutory and Operational Guidance (Oct 2018) document, which is now published on the Berkshire CDOP Panel website, provides full details of this review and sets out a number improvements in key areas of the new guidance that East Berks CCG and its statutory partners will put in place by the end of September 2019.