

# Oldham **Local Safeguarding Children Board**

## SERIOUS CASE REVIEW PANEL

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### **1 Membership**

- 1.1 The Serious Case Review Panel brings together representatives from the main organisations working with children and families who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

#### **2 Purpose**

- 2.1 To undertake reviews of serious cases where a child dies and abuse or neglect are known or are suspected to have been a factor in the death or where there is suspicion, the child committed suicide, or died whilst absent having run away from home.
- 2.2 To consider the circumstances where a child has sustained a potentially life threatening injury through abuse or neglect, serious sexual abuse, or sustained serious permanent impairment of health and development and the case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services worked together to promote and safeguard the welfare of children. This includes situations where a parent has been killed in a domestic violence situation or where a child has been killed by a parent who has a mental health illness.

#### **3 Aim**

- 3.1 To understand the factors which have contributed to the death or the impairment of children's health and development in order to reduce the number of local fatalities and serious injuries.

#### **4 Objectives**

- 4.1 To ensure the LSCB discharges its responsibilities in respect of Child Death Reviews and Serious Case Reviews per present guidance.
- 4.2 To establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which professionals worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 4.3 To analyse the practice of the professionals involved in order to inform future developments both in terms of best practice and the need for change.
- 4.4 To record lessons learnt.

## **5 Process**

- 5.1 When the information becomes available that there has been;-
- an unexpected child death.
  - potential life threatening harm to a child.
  - serious and permanent impairment of health and development of a child which raises concerns about how staff work together to promote and safeguard children.
- 5.2 A referral should be made to the LSCB, Serious Case Review Panel who will make all the initial checks within their agencies to provide a coordinated response.
- 5.3 On receipt of the initial reports the Serious Case Review Panel will consider the contents and recommend to the chair of the Local Safeguarding Board whether an individual agency review is required or a full review.
- 5.4 The decision to undertake individual agency reviews prompts a request for these to be completed and returned to the Serious Case Review Panel.
- 5.5 On receipt of the individual agency reviews the Serious Case Review Panel will consider their findings. The Serious Case Review Panel will then decide whether they are satisfied with the response and if that is the case the Panel will sign-off the report.
- 5.6 If the Serious Case Review Panel decides that they are not satisfied with the findings then further work may be requested.
- 5.7 Once the individual agency reports are completed and signed off the Serious Case Review Panel will ensure that the recommendations are implemented.
- 5.8 If the chair of the LSCB considers a full Part 8 is needed the Serious Case Review Panel will commission an Independent Person to write the overview report.
- 5.9 The Serious Case Review Panel will request a chronology, analysis and recommendations from each agency to inform the Part 8.
- 5.10 The Part 8 is presented to the Serious Case Review Panel to discuss with the Independent Person the recommendations and the implementation of those recommendations prior to its presentation to the full LSCB.
- 5.11 The implementations of the recommendations are over seen by the Serious Case Review Panel who report to the LSCB.