

The Coroner

In certain circumstances, deaths must be reported to the Coroner. This will have been explained to you by the doctors following your child's death, if it is required. Whilst the Coroner is totally independent of the process, he or she will be asked to share any relevant information concerning the death of your child with the Panel. We will also share our information with him or her.

Useful Contacts

Cruse

Bereavement support

Helpline: 0844 477 9400

www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk

Child Bereavement Charity

Support and information for bereaved families

Helpline: 01494 44 66 48

www.childbereavement.org.uk

Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

Support and information when a baby dies suddenly

Helpline: 0808 802 6868

www.fsid.org.uk

Winston's Wish

Guidance and support for families with bereaved siblings

Helpline: 08452 03 04 05

www.winstonswish.org.uk



Blackpool Safeguarding
Children Board

Child Death Overview Panel

Information for Families

For further information please visit:

Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board website:
www.blackpollscb.org.uk

Why do we have a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)?

The Government now requires that all child deaths across the UK (0 to 18 years) must to be considered by a Local Safeguarding Children Board. There is one Local Safeguarding Children Board covering the local authority area of Blackpool. The role of reviewing deaths in this area is carried out by the Child Death Overview Panel on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The loss of a child is always tragic. Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive and painful subject, which will be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers and no one wishes to add to the distress. Members of the Child Death Overview Panel have put together this leaflet to help you to understand exactly what this panel does and why.

What is a Child Death Overview Panel?

The Panel is made up of people from a range of organisations and departments including: Police, Education, Children's Social Care, Public Health, a Paediatrician, a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Maternity Services and the NSPCC. Other members are also included or where it is relevant. Each of the representatives provides the panel with different expertise in order to help understand the cause of death and identify lessons to be learnt as a result of each death. The panel also try to find patterns and trends in the information received and each agency will try to use this information to reduce the number of child deaths in the area.

All information which is made available to the Panel members is confidential.

The Panel will also produce an annual report, which will be published on the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board's website – all information contained within this report is entirely anonymous.

What information will the Panel consider and what will they do with it?

Information about each child and the circumstances of their death must be collected and summarised into a short report. The information will be taken from records help by hospitals, local health services, schools, police, children's services and other agencies who knew the child and family.

The Panel will consider the report in order to be clear about the cause of death and what support was offered to the family after that time.

The Panel must consider whether they can make any recommendations to improve how things are done for children and their families. A major aim is to prevent, wherever possible, further deaths of children. The recommendations must then be shared with agencies involved so that planning of services for children and families in the future can be improved.

Can family members contribute to this process?

We understand that this is a very difficult time and we will try and deal with all your issues and concerns as quickly and as sensitively as possible. If your child dies unexpectedly then you may have already had contact with a number of agencies and they will provide the Panel with information. Although families are not involved in Panel meetings, you are invited to contribute information, if you wish to do so, by contacting the Chair of the Panel, Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health, NHS Blackpool, Blackpool Stadium, Seaside Way, Blackpool FY1 6JX
Telephone: 01253 651026
Email: arif.rajpura@blackpool.nhs.uk

What does this mean for you?

We want to ensure that you understand that we are required to carry out a review of the circumstances of your child's death. However, it may take several months before the Panel consider the circumstances relating to your child, as we are not able to do this until all information is made available to the Panel.