



London learning from information about child deaths

1. Introduction

This is a joint initiative between the London Safeguarding Children Board (the London Board) and the Chairs of London Local Safeguarding Boards, to collate and analyse information about child deaths across London. The initiative follows from the introduction of the processes for reviewing child deaths Child Death Response and Overview as outlined in Chapter 7. in the Government guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (DCSF, 2006)*¹.

The requirements of Chapter 7. are presented in supplementary procedures to the *London Child Protection Procedures (LSCB, 2007)*, the:

- *London Child death overview panel* procedure; and the
- *London Rapid response* procedure.

A core responsibility for each Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is to convene and maintain a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which will take an overview of all child deaths within each Panel locality.

2. Aim

This initiative seeks to draw together the overview data from all child deaths within each London Overview Panel locality, to identify common themes and the lessons for the whole of London, to inform pan-London strategic planning to prevent avoidable child deaths in the future.

3. Process

The London Board the LSCB Chairs will agree consistent use by all London LSCB Child Death Overview Panels a:

- a) Database using Access or Excel software; which includes a
- b) Case management mechanism, which tracks the case from notification through to Panel and on to learning lessons¹.

The database will contain fields which exactly reflect the information requirements of the CEMACH information and evaluation booklet (see appendix 3 of the *London Child death overview panel* procedure).

Local Child Death Overview Panels will use this software for managing Panel business. At regular intervals, to be agreed between the LSCB Chairs and the London Board, the data will be made available to the London Board.

The London Board analysis and strategic overview based on the collated data will be presented to the LSCB Chairs and the London Board in report form.

4. Outputs

¹ See: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/lscb/>

The initiative will:

- a) Provide interim progress reports to the London Safeguarding Children Board, the London LSCB Chairs' group and the London Child Death Overview Panels Chair's group;
- b) Produce an annual final report to support learning for safeguarding children and preventing avoidable child deaths in the future in London; and
- c) Inform the London Child Protection Procedures review process; and Competence Matters: multi-agency safeguarding children training framework

5. Confidential information transfer

In order to ensure confidential transfer of information between local Child Death Review Panels and the London Board, the data will be downloaded locally onto CDs and physically handed to the appropriate London Board staff member.

6. Timescale

It is anticipated that the London Board will pilot collection and analyses of the information in the third quarter of 2008/9.

Christine Christie, London Board Manager, Feb 2008