

Black Country Child Death Overview Panel

CDOP arrangements (For publication September 2023)

OVERVIEW

The Black Country Child Death Overview Panel has been set up by Child Death Review partners:

- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
- Black Country ICB

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Black Country CDOP is to ensure that a review of all child deaths (excluding both those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) up to the age of 18 years, normally resident in Black Country, irrespective of the place of their death.

The Black Country CDOP will adhere to the statutory guidance: [Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance \(England\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671111/Child_Death_Review_Statutory_and_Operational_Guidance_England.pdf)

Within the Black Country these reviews will be undertaken by operational panels, Neonatal and Paediatric, and report to the Strategic Partnership, which will identify actions and recommendations for strategic partners. The over-riding purpose of reviewing all child deaths is to reduce the risk of future deaths or harm to children. Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is the final stage of the Child Death Review (CDR) process.

Child Death Overview Panel Responsibilities

- to collect and collate information about each child death, seeking relevant information from professionals and, where appropriate, family members;
- to analyse the information obtained, including the report from the CDRM, in order to confirm or clarify the cause of death, to determine any contributory factors, and to identify learning arising from the child death review process that may prevent future child deaths;
- to make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent future child deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children;
- to notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel and local Safeguarding Partners when it suspects that a child may have been abused or neglected;



- to notify the Medical Examiner (once introduced) and the doctor who certified the cause of death, if it identifies any errors or deficiencies in an individual child's registered cause of death. Any correction to the child's cause of death would only be made following an application for a formal correction;
- to provide specified data to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD)
- to produce an annual report for CDR partners on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process;
- to contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve learning from child death reviews, including, where appropriate, approved research carried out within the requirements of data protection.

Governance and Accountability

- The Child Death Review Panel is accountable to the Child Death Review (CDR) Partners through a signed Memorandum of Understanding.
- A summary of learning and key points from the Child Death Review Panel will be available for the Health and Wellbeing Boards, local Safeguarding Children Partnerships and other Boards/Partnerships that may be relevant.
- The Child Death Review Panel will report to the Child Death Review Partners and share any recommendations or learning from the review of child deaths.

Conflict of Interest

Panel members must declare any conflict of interest at the outset of each meeting and Panel members should not lead discussions if they are the named professional with the responsibility for the care of the child.

Confidentiality

All information discussed at the Child Death Overview Panel is **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL** and **MUST NOT** be disclosed to third parties without discussion and agreement of the BCCDOP Chair.

Publication

Black Country CDOP arrangements will be published on the Statutory Partner websites. The arrangements will also be published on the Safeguarding Children Partnership websites across the Black Country.

REVIEW of BCCDOP AGREEMENT

There will be a review of the Terms of Reference annually.

Next Review: September 2024

