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## Background

### [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#),

outlines the statutory duty on Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships to review cases where a **child has died or has been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected**.

There are 3 stages of the process of learning from serious cases:

1. Serious Incident Notification (SIN) to the National Panel
2. Rapid review (RR)
3. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Within 5 days of being made aware, the Local Authority has to inform National Panel of the SIN.

All three safeguarding partners are collectively responsible for undertaking the Rapid Review & notifying National Panel of the outcome within 15 working days.

Senior Officers from all three safeguarding partners have to agree on the decision to proceed to a LCSPR & the actions from the RR & LCSPR.

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## Why it matters

When a child suffers a serious injury or death as a result of neglect or abuse it is important to understand not only what happened but also why to help organisations respond in the future.

Reviews allows agencies to understand the impact they had on a child's life, their family's lives & whether different approaches or actions from agencies would have resulted in a different outcome for the child & their family.

The purpose of child safeguarding case reviews is to identify improvement at local and national levels. Learning is relevant locally but has wider importance for all practitioners working with children & families, government & policymakers. Understanding if there are systemic issues & how policy & practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic & self-improving.

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## Information

Reviews are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations, or agencies to account.

There are other processes for that purpose, disciplinary procedures, employment law, professional regulation & in exceptional cases, criminal proceedings.

These processes may be carried out alongside a review or at a later stage.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (National panel) is responsible for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents. At a local level it is with the safeguarding partners.

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## Criteria

If a child dies or is seriously harmed **and** abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development,

Both *Sudden Unexpected Death in infancy* and *Suicides in young people* cases are reviewed through the child death review process and do not require a rapid review or LCSPR, unless abuse or neglect is considered to have directly contributed to the death or was a possible trigger or cause of the child's suicidal thought.

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## Questions to consider

Does the case meet the criteria? A child has died or has been seriously harmed **and** abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

Have you spoken to the Safeguarding lead in your organisation.

Have you referred to the Pan Lancashire CSPR guidance document?

Useful links:

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance for safeguarding partners \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Lancashire CSAP website](#)

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## What to do

If you suspect a case meets the criteria for a Rapid Review or Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, discuss the case with the safeguarding lead in your agency.

Once this has been agreed, complete the referral form, and send it to the [Lancashire Safeguarding Business Unit](#) (LSBU)

**It is good practice to speak to staff within the LSBU and or statutory partners, who are well versed on the criteria and have experience of the processes, prior to submitting a referral.**

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## Referral Process

The Lancashire Safeguarding Business Unit process referrals for consideration of a Rapid review.

They arrange a case consideration meeting to discuss if the case meets the criteria for a statutory review, with the three statutory partners:

- Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board,
- Lancashire Childrens Social Care
- Lancashire Constabulary

If it does, a Rapid review meeting will take place to gather facts, identify immediate learning and determine if a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review is appropriate.

Where learning has been already identified previously or there is no potential for further learning, this will NOT proceed to a LCSPR.

