



WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Chair: N. Hudson

Interim Rapid Response Procedure

Introduction

Working Together requires that:

A rapid response is required by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death of a child.

The joint responsibilities of these professionals will include:

- responding quickly to the unexpected death of a child;
- making immediate enquiries into and evaluating the reasons for and circumstances of the death, in agreement with the coroner;
- undertaking the types of enquiries/investigations that relate to the current responsibilities of their respective organisations when a child dies unexpectedly. This includes liaising with those who have ongoing responsibilities for other family members;
- collecting information in a standard, nationally agreed manner;
- following the death through and maintaining contact at regular intervals with family members and other professionals who have ongoing responsibilities for other family members to ensure they are informed and kept up to date with information about the child's death.

Responding to the unexpected death of a child

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The type of response to each child's unexpected death will, to a certain extent, be dependant on the age of the child but there are some key elements that will underpin all subsequent work. Supplementary information will be required for making enquiries into, for example, infant deaths, deaths that are the result of trauma, deaths in hospital and suicides.

If it is thought at any time that the criteria for a serious case review (SCR) might apply, the WSCB chair should be contacted and the serious case review procedures should be followed.

If concerns are raised at any stage about the possibility of abuse or neglect, the WSCB Child Protection procedures should be followed. Wigan CYPS social care has lead responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The police will be the lead agency for any criminal investigation. The police must be informed immediately that there is a suspicion of a crime so as to ensure that the evidence is properly secured and that any further interviews with family members and relevant other people accord with the requirements of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984).

If, during the enquiries, concerns are expressed in relation to the needs of surviving children in the family then discussions should take place with CYPS social care. It may be decided it is appropriate to initiate an initial assessment using the *Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families* (2000). Such an assessment may result in the convening of a strategy discussion and a subsequent s47 enquiry and child protection conference.

Whenever and wherever an unexpected death of a child has occurred

As soon as the death has been confirmed, contact should be made with the coroner, police, Wigan CYPS social care and the lead paediatrician with responsibility for unexpected deaths in childhood. Contact may be required with more than one LA if the child died away from home. Any relevant information identified by CYPS Social Care should be promptly shared with the police and on call paediatrician. The health visitor or school nurse and GP should also be informed as a matter of routine practice.

Group Membership

Chair – Kath Nelson
Vice-chair – Sean Atkinson
Police – Supt. Paul McIver
Paediatrician – Dr Elham Abbas
PCT Health – Alison Burt
Social Care Manager – Marlyn Banham

Please note, if members are unable to attend they should arrange for a suitably informed substitute to attend.

Members may be co-opted according to case involvement

Please refer to Interim Rapid Response Procedures for Unexpected Death of a Child (appendix 1) and Child Death Serious Incident Overview Referral Form (appendix 2).

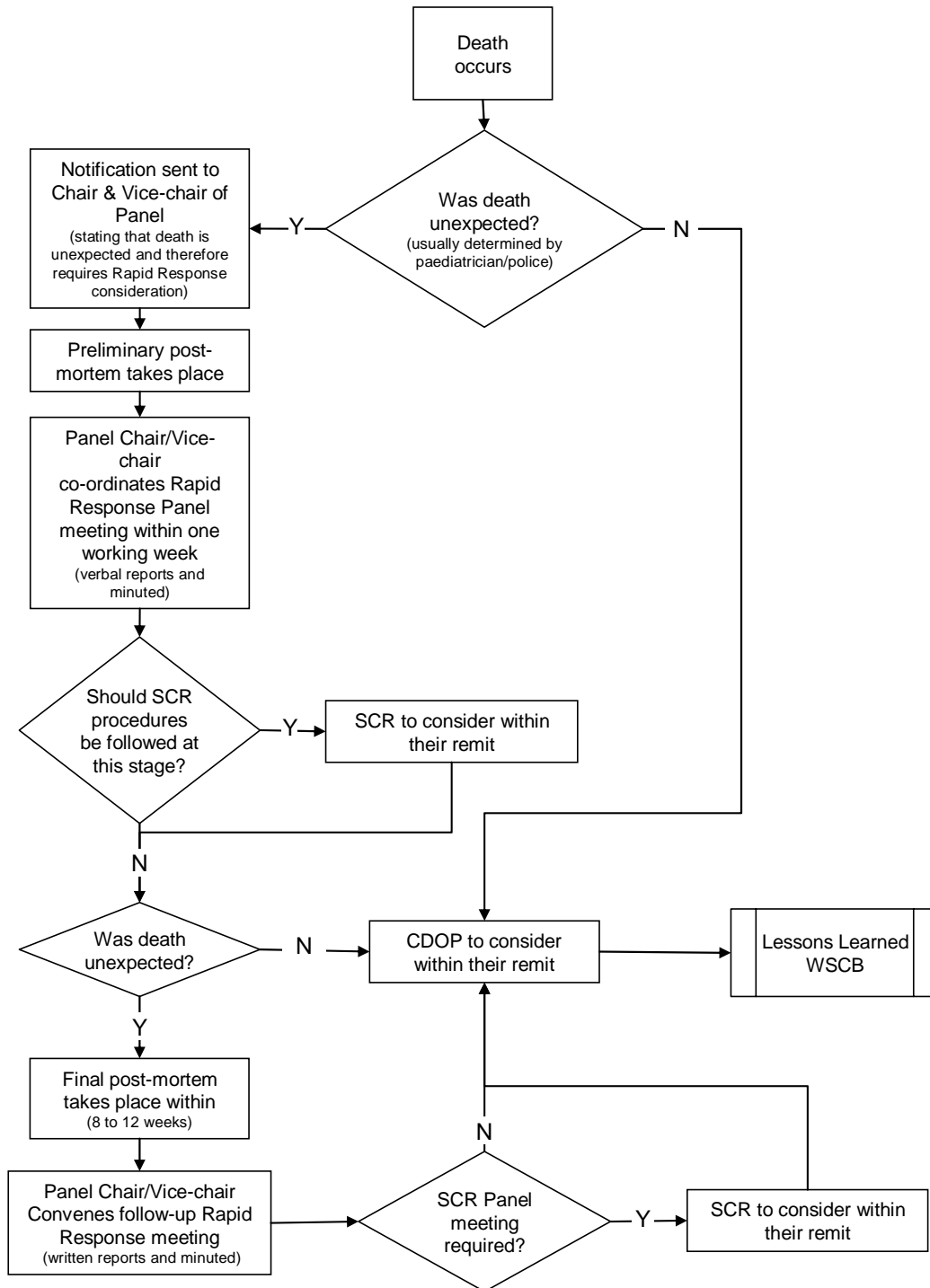
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Reporting

To instigate this process the Rapid Response Notification Form should be completed and sent to **both** the Chair and Vice-chair of the group at k.nelson@wigan.gov.uk and s.atkinson@wigan.gov.uk or by contacting 01942 486005.

APPENDIX 1

Interim Rapid Response Procedure for Unexpected Death of a Child



APPENDIX 2

CHILD DEATH SERIOUS INCIDENT OVERVIEW REFERRAL FORM

Date of Referral							
Referrer's Name		Agency					
Surname		Forenames					
Date of Birth		Gender		<u>M</u>		<u>F</u>	
Address							
Ethnicity							
White		Mixed			Asian / Asian British		
British		White & Black Caribbean			Indian		
Irish		White & Black African			Pakistani		
Other		White & Asian			Bangladeshi		
		Any Other Mixed			Any Other Asian		
Black or Black British		Other Ethnic Groups					
Caribbean		Chinese			Not Stated		
African		African					
Other Black Background		Any Other Ethnic Group					
Child Protection Plan at time of incident				<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>	
						<u>Previously</u>	
Legal Status at time of incident							
Adoption		EPO		PPO		Supervision Order	
S20		Ward of court		Residence Order		Other	
						Care Order	
						None	
Disability at time of incident				<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>	
Mobility		Hand Function		Communication		Learning	
Behaviour		Hearing		Vision		Not known	
Residential status at time of incident							
At Home		With Relatives		With Foster Carers		Children's Home	
Mother and Baby Unit		Hospital		Other (specify)			
Family Composition							
Name		DOB	Relationship to Child			School / Nursery	
Name of Child							
Date of Incident							
Type of Incident		<u>Death</u>			<u>Serious Injury</u>		

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Incident Information	
Information about the Child	
Information about other Children	
Information re carers/parents	
Context / Environment	
Date Signed Off by CDOSISG	