



CHILDREN

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## Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

### Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Protocol 2019

#### **The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together (2018)**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 guidance introduced a new legal framework in respect of local safeguarding arrangements for children. Responsibility for how a system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents now rests at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the three Safeguarding Partners (clinical commissioning groups, police and local authorities). These local safeguarding arrangements replace the function of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and Serious Case Reviews have been replaced by Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) as learning reviews conducted in cases where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed.

In Bristol the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) fulfils the safeguarding partner arrangements set out in The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together (2018) and holds the responsibility for the agreement and undertaking of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

#### **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

It is the responsibility of the KBSP to decide whether a serious child safeguarding incident meets the criteria for Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR).

Serious child safeguarding incidents are those in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
- the child has died or been seriously harmed

The criteria which the local safeguarding partners must take into account to decide whether a CSPR should be conducted include whether the case:

- highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate

Safeguarding partners should also have regard to the following circumstances

- where the safeguarding partners have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency
- where there has been no agency involvement and this gives the safeguarding partners cause for concern
- where more than one local authority, police area or clinical commissioning group is involved, including in cases where families have moved around
- where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings

The purpose of a CSPR is to:



CHILDREN

ADULTS

COMMUNITIES

- Establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result, and therefore, improve inter-agency working and better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

A CSPR is not a criminal enquiry and is separate from any investigation undertaken by the Police. This process is not about blame or any potential disciplinary action, but about an open and transparent learning from practice in order to improve inter-agency working

### Referrals and Notification

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority, Bristol City Council, to submit a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel using the [Child safeguarding incident notification system](#) in cases where

- abuse or neglect is known or suspected, and
- a child dies or is seriously harmed in Bristol.

For looked-after children, the panel must be notified of their death whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected. This notification must take place within 5 working days of becoming aware of the incident.

Rapid Reviews **must** be conducted whenever Bristol City Council submits a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification. However, other multi-agency safeguarding partners should also inform the KBSP of cases where it is considered that a Rapid Review should be conducted.

The KBSP must be informed before or immediately after a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification is made by Bristol City Council as the local Authority. Referral forms are available to multi-agency partners to inform the KBSP that a case may meet the criteria for Rapid Review. The KBSP Business Unit will review the referral and circulate to the Practice Review Sub Group to consider if a) Bristol City Council should be requested to submit a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification, **OR** b) a Rapid Review meeting should be convened without the Local Authority submitting a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification.

### Rapid Reviews

Following a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification, a Rapid Review process to gather relevant information to support decision making will be arranged. This process must be completed and a report sent to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 15 working days of the KBSP being notified of the child safeguarding serious incident.

The KBSP Business Unit will immediately request chronologies and further supporting information to address the CSPR criteria from multi-agency partners within the Practice Review sub group to be brought to a meeting within 6-10 days of notification. On consideration of the collated information, the Practice Review sub group will

- Identify any immediate actions that organisations need to take to ensure children's safety in the city and share immediate learning appropriately
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by undertaking a CSPR
- Decide what steps to take including whether or not to undertake a CSPR (local or national)



CHILDREN

ADULTS

COMMUNITIES

- Inform KBSP Safeguarding Partners of recommendations and seek final decision.

On confirmation of the final decision of the KBSP Safeguarding Partners the Rapid Review report will be prepared and submitted to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 15 working days.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will consider the recommendation and review the case at the next Panel meeting to decide whether the case reaches the criteria for a national or local review and will advise the Safeguarding Partners in writing of the decision.

If it is agreed that a review will **not** take place the immediate actions identified within the Rapid Review will be directed and monitored within the Practice Review sub group.

If it is agreed that a Local CSPR will take place the Practice Review sub group will commission and support an independent reviewer to undertake this.

If it is agreed that a National CSPR will take place the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel should notify the Secretary of State and discuss how this will be undertaken with the KBSP. There may be instances where a local review has been carried out which could then form part of a thematic review that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel undertakes at a later date.

### **Convening a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review**

The Practice Review sub group and KBSP Business Unit must appoint an independent reviewer to conduct a Local CSPR. The appointing group (consisting of Safeguarding Partner representatives from the Practice Review Sub Group) should consider if a reviewer has the following:

- professional knowledge, understanding and practice relevant to local child safeguarding practice reviews including the ability to engage both with practitioners and children and families
- knowledge and understanding of research relevant to children's safeguarding issues
- ability to recognise the complex circumstances in which practitioners work together to safeguard children
- ability to communicate findings effectively
- whether the reviewer has any real or perceived conflict of interest

Methodology and terms of reference for the review should be finalised with the reviewer once appointed, but should be drafted by the Safeguarding Partner representatives from the Practice Review Sub Group in parallel with making an appointment. The most appropriate methodology for conducting a CSPR should be determined on a case by case basis. Accredited methodologies include SCIE Learning Together and SILP which both use a systems learning approach. A bespoke or hybrid approach may also be undertaken.

All CSPR methodologies should demonstrate a commitment to:

- engagement with family and carers
- engagement with frontline practitioners
- taking a 'no blame' and systems learning approach
- being conducted in accordance with the [NSPCC Quality Markers](#)
- aim to complete within 6 months of initiation

### **Other review types and parallel processes**



CHILDREN

ADULTS

COMMUNITIES

Where a CSPR is agreed consideration should also be given to whether the case should be referred for Domestic Homicide Review (which are applicable to those over 16 years of age) or Safeguarding Adult Review (where the case may also involve the death of an adult at risk of abuse or neglect). This should be raised through the Business Unit of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership, which also supports these reviews.

Where a case meets the criteria for more than one type of review a joint review should be considered, and if commissioned the methodology chosen should allow for the review to meet the requirements of both.

Alongside DHRs and SARs, it should reviews may be undertaken with Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews where relevant. LEDER.  
Include flowchart.

### **Report and Quality Assurance**

Once a CPSR report draft has been finalised by the independent reviewer and/or review panel (where appointed), this should be quality assured by the Practice Review sub group to assess whether

- The research question has been effectively answered and/or the terms of reference have been met
- The report remains within the established scope with the focus on learning lessons
- The agreed methodology has been followed
- There are no factual or typographical errors
- Conclusions have been evidenced
- Language is appropriate
- The report is publishable and no personal detail regarding the case that is not relevant to the review has been included.

The report will then proceed to the KBSP Executive Group for approval.

There is a commitment to publish CSPRs as far as possible; legal advice may be taken before doing so.

### **Learning and Actions**

The Practice Review sub group will develop an action plan that addresses the findings of the CSPR, to be agreed and supported by the Safeguarding Partners. This will be maintained by the KBSP Business Unit and monitored by the Practice Review Support Group.

Action should be taken to ensure learning is disseminated.