



Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership Safeguarding Practice Review Communication Strategy

Introduction

This document sets out the Communications Strategy for Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CSCP) and relates to the communication processes for publishing Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and Rapid Reviews, and also sets out the arrangements for embedding the learning from all reviews across partner organisations and agencies in Coventry.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 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 (the National Panel) and at a local level with the three Safeguarding Partners (clinical commissioning groups, police and local authorities). Safeguarding Partners are required to conduct a Rapid Review and then need to consider whether to conduct a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review in cases where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed

Definition of a Serious Child Safeguarding Case

Working Together 2018 defines serious child safeguarding cases as those in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed.
- Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) impairment of physical health and serious / long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.
- Working Together 2018 advises that consideration be given to whether impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately obvious. Even if a child recovers, serious harm may still have occurred.
- Child perpetrators may be the subject of a review, if the definition of a serious child safeguarding case is met.

Criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Safeguarding Partners are required to consider certain criteria and guidance when determining whether to carry out a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. They must take into account 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 National Panel have considered and concluded that a local review may be more appropriate.

They 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.

Meeting the criteria does not mean a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review must automatically be undertaken. Instead, the Rapid Review process will be followed to determine whether a review is appropriate (i.e. whether there is potential to identify improvements.)

Communication with family members, children and young people

Where possible, and on a case by case basis, Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership will seek to engage children, young people and their families in Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews. It is crucial that we understand the child's perspective and the family context. It is the responsibility of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Manager to share the findings of the Rapid Review/ Safeguarding Practice Review with the family. In the case of Safeguarding Practice Reviews this will be prior to publication of the report.

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Within 15 working days of the Serious incident notification Rapid Review reports will be shared with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The Safeguarding Partners must also send a copy of the full Safeguarding Practice Review report to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, OFSTED and the Secretary of State no later than 7 working days before the date of publication. Reports should be submitted electronically to:-

- Mailbox.nationalreviewpanel@education.gov.uk
- SCR.SIN@ofsted.gov.uk
- Mailbox.CPOD@education.gov.uk

Submission to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will support them in their role of identifying issues of national significance and enable them to identify learning across areas. This learning is communicated by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in their Annual Reports and in their thematic reviews. Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership will ensure that this National learning is shared in the following ways:

- The reports will be shared at Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership meetings.
- The reports and associated products, including One Minute Guides, Podcasts and webinars, will be shared with local agencies at multi-agency meetings, in the CSCP Newsletter, at the CSCP conference and at CSCP Multi-agency training sessions.

Preparing for publication

Rapid reviews are not published.

The CSCP are required to publish all SPRs, unless it is considered inappropriate to do so. SPRs cannot be published until any criminal proceedings have been completed, which can be some time after the review itself is completed. It must be noted that an embargoed review should never impact on the sharing and implementation of learning, as well as the embedding and monitoring of recommendations/actions and their impact on outcomes for children.

Publication and media planning will commence once the final Safeguarding Practice Review report (including the agreed recommendations) have been formally endorsed by the CSCP and all parallel processes are completed.

Publication planning will bring together strategic and media/communication leads from the agencies involved in the review. The wishes of the child's family will always be considered as part of the publication and media planning however it must always be made clear that the CSCP is duty bound to publish the SPR and learning in full. Publication will have been considered throughout the production of the SPR and the CSCP must ensure the right balance is met between potential impact on the family and ensuring learning is shared. The proposed publication arrangements will be discussed with the family and appropriate steps will be taken to minimise the disruption and distress that any media attention surrounding the publication may cause to family and friends.

The arrangements for informing practitioners who were involved with the subject child and family will also be considered. It is likely that the senior managers from each agency will take responsibility for informing frontline staff of the date of publication and ensure they have appropriate support.

Publication of the report

Published reports will be made available to read and download from the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership website where they will be available for at least one year. The CSCP Business Manager will ensure strategic leaders and key stakeholders in partner agencies, including Cabinet Members, are briefed as appropriate regarding publication plans.

Disseminating and embedding the learning from SPRs

SPRs will vary in their breadth and complexity but in all cases, learning should be identified and acted upon as quickly as possible underpinned by an action plan with agreed timescales. This can be before the review has formally commenced and during its' progress; such progress will be referenced in the final report and incorporated and communicated within the dissemination of learning. The SPR subgroup have agreed multiple approaches to ensure maximum reach for sharing

and embedding the learning from all reviews across partner agencies in Coventry. Every opportunity will be used to share the outcomes of SPRs including:

- Newsletters - issued quarter
- One Minute Guides, podcasts and webinars – these will be created, where possible, in relation to Rapid Reviews, SPR's , National Reviews and areas of learning highlighted by reviews.
- CSCP Website - a central place for documents and policies- <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cscp>
- Annual Report – a summary of the review and relevant action will be within this published report
- The Safeguarding Together Action Group- the frontline practitioner forum
- CSCP Events/Conferences
- Multi-Agency Training
- Publication workshops – upon publication, an event open to all multi agency practitioners may be held (virtually or in person) led by the author and co-ordinated by the CSCP Business Unit.