



## Serious Incident Notifications

Under the Children’s Act 2004 if a Local Authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the Local Authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the Local Authorities area, or (b) while normally resident in the Local Authorities area, the child dies or is harmed outside England. All notifications must also be made to the DfE and Ofsted. Cases must be notified within 5 working days of the Local Authority becoming aware.

The exception is for Looked after Children the requirement is to notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted when any Looked after child dies.

There are 2 questions that need to be considered when deciding whether to notify:

- Is abuse or neglect suspected that has caused the serious harm or death? *Even if it is suspected a notification should be made and a Rapid Review triggered to gather the facts.*
- Has it lead to serious harm or death? *Sometimes this is straightforward as the injury is life changing or threatening but at other times professional judgement may be required.*

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel offer specific guidance in Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance for safeguarding partners which can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1108887/Child\\_Safeguarding\\_Practice\\_Review\\_panel\\_guidance\\_for\\_safeguarding\\_partners.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1108887/Child_Safeguarding_Practice_Review_panel_guidance_for_safeguarding_partners.pdf)

While the responsibility for notification rests with the Local Authority , once a case has been notified , responsibility for the review rests with the three Safeguarding Partners. Good Practice suggests that there should be a dialogue between the three Safeguarding Partners when deciding whether to notify.

In Coventry responsibility rests with the Local Authority Children Services Strategic Lead for Quality Assurance. If you feel that a case meets the criteria please contact them for a discussion CoventryCSCP <CoventryCSCP@coventry.gov.uk>

