**Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

Child protection in England is a complex multi-agency system with many different organisations and individuals playing their part. Reflecting on how well that system is working is critical as we constantly seek to improve our collective public service response to children and their families.

Sometimes a child suffers a serious injury or death as a result of child abuse or neglect. Understanding not only what happened but also why things happened as they did can help to improve our response in the future. Understanding the impact that the actions of different organisations and agencies had on the child’s life, and on the lives of his or her family, and whether or not different approaches or actions may have resulted in a different outcome, is essential to improve our collective knowledge. It is in this way that we can make good judgments about what might need to change at a local or national level.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at local level with the safeguarding partners.

Locally, safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

**Rapid Review Process**

Safeguarding partners must undertake a **rapid review** for serious child safeguarding cases *(Section 16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as set out in Working Together 2018)*

The purpose of a rapid review is to:

* gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
* discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately
* consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
* decide what steps they should take next.

All agencies who have been involved with the subject child or family will be required to contribute to the rapid review. An initial scoping of agencies’ intervention will, therefore, need to be completed and other relevant information will need to be rapidly gathered.

To support this, agencies are asked to produce an **Initial Scoping and** **Information Sharing Template.**

The purpose of the initial scoping and information sharing is to gather the basic facts about the case, including determining the extent of agency involvement with the child and family.

More detailed information will be sought if the rapid review concludes the case has the potential to identify national or local learning and a decision is made to recommend a Child Safeguarding Practice Review, or an alternative Learning Review.

The flowchart below details the process for referring to the PTSCB for consideration for a rapid review

**Although any agency can refer a case, all notifications to the Ofsted and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel must come from the Local Authority; you must liaise between your agency lead and the Children’s Services Head of Service for Safeguarding and QA before a referral is accepted.** Once the Local Authority notifies Ofsted, this becomes a rapid review referral.

**Overview of the process to decide whether to convene a child safeguarding practice review or alternative learning review and the associated timescales.**

Agency submits *Serious Incident Referral Form*

⭣

Working day 1 to 2

*Initial Scoping and Information Sharing Template* sent to all relevant agencies

⭣

Dates set for Rapid Review Meeting & Endorsement Meeting (Chair and IQA)

*(This could be a standing Group responsible for overseeing learning from serious incidents or an extraordinary meeting to undertake the Rapid Review)*

⭣

Working day 8

Completed *Initial Scoping and Information Sharing Template* returned by agencies and then shared with those attending the Rapid Review meeting along with the Referral Form and any LA notification

Between working days 8 and 12

**Rapid Review** meeting (in person or SKYPE)

* Reviews the facts about the case presented in the documentation
* Agrees any immediate action
* Considers the case against the criteria for child safeguarding practice reviews
* Decides whether a practice review or other learning review should take place
* Completes the *Rapid Review Template* and agrees the recommendation

Working Day 12-13

**Rapid Review Endorsement Meeting** (in person or SKYPE)

Chair of PTSCP and IQA have meeting to discuss the nature and content of the Rapid Review meeting and endorse or seek amendment to recommendation of the *Rapid Review Template* as appropriate.



*Rapid Review Template* and *accompanying letter* sent to national Panel.

Agencies (including the agency who made the referral) are informed of the outcome of the Rapid Review

Working Day 14-15