

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 November 2017



Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review Process

Report of Jane Geraghty Independent Chair Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information on the processes involved in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review (SCR).
2. To provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny with the learning from the published SCR.

Serious Case Review Presentation

3. Serious Case Reviews are multi-agency reviews of how professionals and organisations have worked together with a child and their family when a serious incident has occurred.
4. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulation 2006 indicates the functions of local safeguarding children boards including the criteria for serious case reviews.
5. A serious case review must be initiated when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; a child is seriously injured or when a child has died. Other circumstances where such a review must be conducted are outlined in the presentation slides.
6. The Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager will provide the committee with information in relation to:
 - What is a Serious Case Review?
 - When and why they are carried out?
 - Who is involved in Serious Case Reviews?
 - Which organisation leads Serious Case Reviews?
 - How are Serious Case Reviews undertaken?
 - What happens after the review has taken place?
7. The presentation will also outline the flexibilities and specific expectations on Local Safeguarding Children Boards to publish Serious Case Review reports as

set out in Working Together 2015. Mention will be made of the role of the Department for Education (DfE), the National Panel of Experts and Ofsted.

8. The presentation will also highlight the learning and subsequent actions taken by the LSCB.

Recommendations

9. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - a. Note the content of this report and receive the presentation.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

There is a financial implication to Serious Case Reviews due to the national requirement to commission an independent person to conduct the review. Costs vary depending on how complex a case might be. The cost of reviews are primarily met by the LSCB through its direct funding from partner agencies. Some agencies also commission independent reviewers to conduct individual management reviews which inform the overview report.

Staffing

Serious Case Reviews involves significant amount of staff time in terms of their involvement in meetings and interviews. This also includes attending lessons learnt events.

Risk

High profile reviews carry the reputational risk for the local authority and the partner agencies who make up the LSCB.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

Serious Case reviews have to take into account issues of Equality and Diversity.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

No adverse implications.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

No adverse implications.

Procurement

The LSCB is required to commission an independent author to lead the Serious Case Review.

Disability Issues

No adverse implications.

Legal Implications

The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulation 2006 require the LSCB to undertake Serious Case Reviews. In conducting Serious Case Reviews the LSCB must also take account of any legal processes that are taking place such as Coroner proceedings, proceedings in the family or the criminal court.