



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

NSCP Referral Guidance for Rapid Review / Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Introduction

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

[Chapter 4 of the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) places a duty on local safeguarding partnerships to undertake a **rapid review** for serious child safeguarding cases where:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; **and**
- The child has died or been **seriously harmed**.

What constitutes 'Serious Harm'?

The Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) statutory guidance outlines:

"Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health.....When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred"

Whilst this definition provides a degree of clarity on the 'serious harm' threshold for agencies to refer to the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), the matter is still subject to an assessment/interpretation from the relevant agency as to whether this threshold is met.

Practice guidance issued by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) in April 2019 outlines straightforward examples that would meet this threshold; "because the child has a life-changing and long-term injury or an injury that is clearly life-threatening, for example, requiring resuscitation or intensive care treatment" but also comment that they have, "seen inconsistencies in what gets reported as a serious incident from different safeguarding partners".

Whilst it remains that case that interpretations of what constitutes 'serious harm' have to be considered on a case by case basis, it is also clear that the statutory definition of 'significant harm' that triggers statutory intervention pursuant to s.47 of the Children Act 1989 should not always be considered as a 'serious harm' incident and that only a minority of cases that trigger the statutory 'significant harm'



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

threshold would be expected to result in a consideration for LSCP's to regard the matter as 'serious harm' and thus requiring a review.

It is therefore important that agencies carefully consider cases that are perceived as possibly requiring referral to LSCP's against the sets of guidance as outlined above. Further consultation around this threshold can be held with the Safeguarding Board Manager to assist in the determination of whether a referral is proportionate.

Rapid Review Purpose

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 be undertaken along with other relevant information to support the collation of facts relating to the referral.

Agencies will be asked to produce an Agency Summary.

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/or 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 (CSPR), or an alternative Learning Review.

Although any agency can refer a case (using the referral form below), all notifications to the CSPRP must come from the Local Authority.

The NSCP Business Manager will ensure that the referral is put to the NSCP's Safeguarding Child Practice Review Panel for consideration on whether Children's Services need to proceed to a Rapid Review.



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Practice Review Referral Form

Guidance notes:

Please ensure that you have considered the above 'serious harm' threshold guidance with your management prior to referring.

Agencies are also reminded of the need to secure their files as soon as they become aware that a child safeguarding practice review or other review might take place.

1. Referrer

Name of referrer	
Agency & Designation	
Email address	
Telephone number	
Name of Senior manager/Officer who has authorised this referral	
Agency & designation	
Email Address	
Telephone Number	

2. Child / Children and Family

Name of Child / Children (Subject/s of referral)	
Date/s of Birth	
Date/s of death (if applicable)	
Date/s of critical incident	
Home address/es	
Ethnic origin/s	
Subject to a Child Protection Plan?	YES/NO
Subject to a Child in Need Plan?	YES/NO
Whereabouts at time of critical incident	
Carer/s at time of critical incident	



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Family Composition/Significant Others:

Name	Relationship to child	DoB	Address	Legal Status and/or current criminal proceedings	Ethnic Origin	Is/was subject of a CPP

Are there other children / siblings in the home or other residence who require safeguarding?

If yes, please specify in the box below the arrangements that have been put in place in respect of these children.

Summary of the case and main incident here



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

3. Type of Review requesting to be considered

Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Other type of Review.

More Details (where applicable):.....

4. Other agencies involved:

Name	Agency	Contact Details	Are they still involved?

5. Reason for referral:

Where the answer is yes to any of these questions please provide further information in the boxes below



NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

a)	Does this case involve the death of a child, including death by suspected suicide and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor? This should include situations where a child has been killed by a parent, carer or close relative with a mental illness, known to misuse substances or to perpetrate domestic abuse.	Yes/No
b)	Does this case involve the death of a child in custody, either in police custody, on remand or following sentencing, in a Young Offender Institution (YOI), a Secure Training Centre (STC) or secure children's homes, or where the child was detained under the mental health Act 2005?	Yes/No
c)	Does this case involve a potentially life-threatening injury or serious and permanent impairment of physical and/or mental health and development (through abuse or neglect)?	Yes/No
d)	Does this case involve serious sexual abuse	Yes/No
e)	Was the parent murdered and a domestic homicide review is being initiated under the Domestic Violence Act 2004?	Yes/No
f)	Has a child been seriously harmed following a violent assault perpetrated by another child or an adult?	Yes/No
g)	Does this case give rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children? If yes, use box below?	Yes/No

If there are concerns about inter-agency working in this case please specify here what these concerns are:

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Contact details for advice on the completion of this form and where the completed form should be submitted to (either using secure email or by password protecting the document):

Natalie Newton -
NSCP Business Manager Natalie.Newton@newham.gov.uk
And
NSCP Admin LSCB.Administrator@newham.gov.uk

You may also wish to refer to the following guidance:
[National Child Safeguarding Review Panel's Practice Guidance](#)