

## Useful contacts

### Support and resources for bereaved families:

#### The Compassionate Friends

*Bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents.*

Helpline: 0345 123 2304

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

#### Cruse (Bereavement Care)

Helpline: 0808 808 1677

[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

#### The Lullaby Trust

*Death of a baby or young toddler*

Helpline: 0808 802 6868

[www.lullabytrust.org.uk](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk)

#### Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

[www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

#### Muslim Bereavement Support Service

020 3468 7333

[www.mbss.org.uk](http://www.mbss.org.uk)

## Useful contacts

### Support and resources for bereaved families:

#### Child Bereavement UK

Support and Information 0800 02 888 40

[www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org)

#### Grief Encounter

Helpline 020 8371 8455

<http://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>

#### Winston's Wish

Helpline: 08452 03 04 05

[www.winstonswish.org.uk](http://www.winstonswish.org.uk)

#### Sibling Support

[www.siblingsupport.co.uk](http://www.siblingsupport.co.uk)

[hello@siblingsupport.co.uk](mailto:hello@siblingsupport.co.uk)

#### The Coroners' Courts Support Service

Helpline +44 (0) 300 111 2141

[helpline@ccss.org.uk](mailto:helpline@ccss.org.uk)

[www.coronerscourtssupportservice.org.uk](http://www.coronerscourtssupportservice.org.uk)

# Information for parents and carers about the Child Death Review Process



Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets, Newham, City  
and Hackney

## Introduction

We would like to express our sincere condolences at this sad time. Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive and painful subject. We understand that this can be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers. This leaflet explains some of the things that have to happen after your child has died. It also provides a list of organisations that you might find useful.

Since 2008 the Government legally requires each local authority to review every child death under the age of 18 years. This is called the Child Death Review Process (CDR). The more that we understand about why your child died, the more we can help to prevent the deaths of other children in the future.

There are two types of death: Explained and Unexplained.

An explained death follows on from a period of illness or long standing medical condition that has been identified as terminal and where active prevention is not possible.

An unexplained death is defined as one which was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example, 24 hours before the death; or where there was an unexpected collapse or incident leading to or precipitating the events which lead to the death.

There are 2 main parts to the CDR process:

## 1 Joint Agency Response (JAR) following an unexplained death of a child

A meeting called a 'joint agency response' is held by a group of key professionals who ascertain the facts surrounding how your child died unexpectedly. This may take place within the first few days of your child's death. This response is led and co-ordinated by a children's consultant called a designated paediatrician. This may mean a visit (but not always) to where your child died by a police officer, health professional and/or social worker.

The purpose of the meeting is to make sure all relevant information is available to the review process and that the support offered to the family is co-ordinated.

## 2 The Child Death Review (CDR)

CDR reviews all deaths under 18 years. The panel uses information about each child's death to consider whether it can make any local recommendations to prevent similar deaths or to improve services for children and families. Anonymised data and recommendations are then presented to the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) for wider thematic learning which may be shared both locally and nationally.

The CDOP has representation from public health, local health services, social care services, and police. Other organisations may be invited to give specialist advice.

## Parents/Carers may feel able to contribute

The CDR process will allocate a Family Liaison Worker to ensure families get the right support following their child's death and are informed of the process throughout. You are invited to share information about your child that you feel may help the process. Your liaison worker will ensure you are represented at the CDR / CDOP meetings and let you know the findings if you would find this helpful.

**Your Family Liaison worker is:**

### Telephone:

If you are unable to make contact with your Family Liaison worker please contact:

Email: [cdr-welc.cityhackney@nhs.net](mailto:cdr-welc.cityhackney@nhs.net)

Telephone: 07973 949570 / 020 3373 9375 / 07977 597849

All the information the CDR reviews is treated with respect and in strictest confidence. None of the findings, recommendations or reports will name your child or family.

## The Coroner

All unexplained deaths must be reported to the Coroner. This will have been explained by the doctors and professionals following your child's death. Whilst the Coroner is independent of the process, they will be invited to exchange relevant information with the CDR process.