

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (Formerly Serious Case Reviews) Reviews Involving Children

The decision whether to carry out a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review is taken by the three key safeguarding partners with the agreement of the Independent Chair. You can read more about the BSCP here:

<https://www.bucksscp.org.uk/about-the-bscb/>

To carry out a Review the following criteria must be met;

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

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. This is not an exhaustive list. 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.

If those criteria are not met, but the Partnership still thinks that there may be learning to be gained from looking at practice, or the ways agencies worked together, they may choose to hold a reflective learning session or a Practice Review. These are generally an informal discussion where you will be invited to share your thoughts and experiences. You should be contacted beforehand with the scope. For example, what time period will be considered and what types of issues might be discussed (usually a Terms of Reference). If you have questions or concerns about the information you receive or you don't think you have any, you or your Manager can contact your agency representative on the LCSPR Sub Group. If you don't know who that is, contact bscp@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

When the initial criteria are met, before a Review can take place, the following steps happen:

- Representatives of the 3 key Partners have a Rapid Review discussion to establish what information is known at that point.
- They make a recommendation to the BSCP Chair as to whether a Review should go ahead. The Chair reviews the information and makes the decision. If the Review is going ahead, BSCP inform the DfE, Ofsted and the [National Panel](#).
- BSCP and the LCSPR Sub Group agree to appoint an Independent Author and draw up the Terms of Reference for the Review.

When an LCSPR is underway you may be involved in one of the following roles;

Reports/Chronology

As part of the information gathering process, organisations and agencies will be asked to provide Reports /Chronologies. Those providing the information should be independent of any direct involvement or Line Management of the case under Review. They should be sufficiently senior and be able to challenge existing practice and be credible within the organisation. They should have sufficient knowledge and expertise to objectively analyse their agency's involvement effectively and make suggested required recommendations for change. **Obvious organisational improvement needs and opportunities should be progressed immediately and not delayed for the completion/publication of the LCSPR Final report.**

Panel Chair

The Chair of the Panel will be a member of the LCSPR Sub Group. You will work with the Safeguarding Partnership Manager to identify and commission a suitable Independent Author. You will facilitate panel discussions, promoting a culture of self-reflection and feedback to promote learning. You will work closely with the Author to give clear direction & assistance in helping produce a meaningful and accurate final report with proportionate and realistic recommendations. You will manage timescales & oversee the creation of an action plan based on the Author recommendations.

Panel Member

As a Panel member you will represent your organisation or agency as part of a group of professionals, selected in line with the circumstances of the related case. It is vital that you enter the process with an open mind to create an environment of self-reflection, feedback & discussion to promote learning. You will receive the fully collated multi-agency chronology, information about events and consultations with practitioners and draft/final Reports. You will help create an action plan based on the Author recommendations within the final report. **Obvious organisational improvement needs and opportunities identified through the process should be progressed immediately and not delayed for the completion/publication of the LCSPR Final report.**

Practitioner Event

If a practitioner event is held, you will represent your organisation or agency as part of a group of professionals, selected through involvement in the related case. A key aspect to fully understanding the information gathered is by ensuring those directly involved are given a voice and platform to add context and depth. It is vital that you enter the process with an open mind to create an environment of self-reflection, feedback & discussion to promote learning; **the objective is to improve our service, not blame.**

Independent Author

Each Independent Author may take a different approach but generally there will be an initial information gathering phase which will then be reviewed by the Panel. The Panel will decide how best to engage with practitioners, which may be in large events or small, or even 1:1 conversations. The learning from these will then be reviewed by the Panel, at all stages the overarching LCSPR Sub Group will oversee progress of the Reviews and receive updates. Dependent on the methodology being used, the Author may also have a role in designing and facilitating learning events and seeking the views of family members. After the events there will be a draft Report which will be shared with Panel members, this will then be crafted into a final Report. The Overview Report should set out the learning, including appropriate and proportionate recommendations for action, and, where agreed, an Executive Summary. This will then be published once any criminal proceedings or inquests are completed

Where Can I Find Reports?

<https://www.bucksscp.org.uk/serious-case-review/>

What Happens to The Learning?

Actions will be captured, monitored and driven through the LCSPR Sub Group and the Executive Partnership, as well as the BSCP Independent Chair. The Partnership will look for evidence that the recommendations have been implemented and have made a positive impact on practice.

Where Can I Find Out More?

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working Together to Safeguard-Children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf)

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews/learning-from-case-review-briefings/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/triennial-analysis-serious-case-reviews-pathways-to-harm-pathways-to-protection/>