

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board believe you should know about the review and have the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you may have about the help you received.

The Review Panel Chair or his/her representative can arrange to meet with you to discuss this process and your contact with the organisations, agencies and professionals involved.

If you wish to arrange such a meeting please contact: -

RCSCB Business Manager
West Locality
Daisy Lane
Ormesby
TS7 9JF
Tel: 01642 304520



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Ensuring all Children and Young People are appropriately Safeguarded



Introduction

When a child dies unexpectedly or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect may be suspected or where there are concerns about interagency working to protect children from harm, Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) is required to undertake a Serious Case Review to consider whether there are any lessons to be learnt about the way professionals have worked with you and your family.

This leaflet has been designed to explain what happens during the review.

What is a Serious Case Review?

The purpose of a serious case review is to establish how organisations, agencies and professionals work together to keep children and young people safe. This review concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies that have been involved with the family. It is completely separate from investigations that sometimes have to be carried out by the Police or Coroner.

A serious case review panel, which consists of senior people from the organisations and agencies involved, will meet to have a close look at the work of all the professionals and agencies that have been involved with the family. The members of this panel could include representatives from Health, Social Care, Education, Police and Legal Services. Other organisations and agencies may be asked to attend or provide information.

The Purpose of Serious Case Reviews

The purpose of SCR's carried out under this guidance is to:

- Establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result; and
- As a consequence improve intra and inter-agency working and so better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Each agency or organisation will provide the Serious Case Review Panel with full details of when and what services they provided the family over a period of time that is decided by members of the Review panel.

The panel of professionals will consider all the reports in detail in order to find out if expected standards of work have been met and organisational policy and procedures have been followed.

A summary of the decisions that were made, services that were either offered and or provided and any actions that were taken, or not taken will be considered in detail. From this we can identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies, organisations and professionals work together to safeguard Children and Young People and promote their welfare.

When the Review is complete the agencies and organisations will then consider what actions they may need to take to change the way they support Children, Young People and their families. Redcar & Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board will inform you of the outcome of the Review and any lessons that have been learnt.

Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Each review ends with a set of recommendations reflecting the learning from the case. RCSCB will oversee the process of agreeing with partners what action they need to take in light of the SCR findings. Recommendations can be focused towards individual agencies, all RCSCB member agencies or the LSCB itself. RCSCB will then be asked to adopt the recommendations and having done so the relevant agencies are expected to implement them. Each recommendation has a specific intended outcome, and a timescale within which it is to be undertaken. A report on progress is also made to the RCSCB

As well as feedback to the people involved, RCSCB are working to develop ways of helping everyone to learn from Serious Case Reviews through active multi agency engagement, awareness briefings, newsletters and training.