

## **What is a Serious Case Review?**

The aim of a Serious Case Review (SCR) is to learn lessons and where necessary make changes in practice to improve the safeguarding of children and young people in the future.

A Serious Case Review looks at how local organisations have worked together to provide services to the child or young person who is the subject of the Review and to his or her family. WSCB has to carry out a SCR when a child or young person has been seriously harmed or has died and abuse or neglect is suspected and there may be lessons to be learnt about how organisations have worked together, to prevent similar deaths or injuries happening in the future.

The process is defined in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2015. A link to this document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

A SCR is completely separate from any investigation being under-taken by the Police or Coroner.

## **Who carries out the Serious Case Review?**

WSCB will appoint one or more suitable individuals to lead the SCR (reviewer). The Lead Reviewer will be independent of WSCB and the organisations in the case. There will be appropriate representation in the review process of professionals and organisations who were involved with the child and family.

WSCB will ask each relevant organisation to provide information in writing, including a chronology, about its involvement with the child who is the subject of the review.

## **Publication of the SCR**

The final Overview Report will be published along with an Executive Summary on WSCB's website. The report and Executive Summary will be fully anonymised and will not contain any identifying details; it will be available to all professionals to ensure that the lessons learned and recommendations are put into practice as defined in the WSCB Learning & Improvement Framework.

## **How long will the Review take?**

The Review should be completed within 6 months of the decision being taken to start the Review. Sometimes this timescale needs to be extended.

## **How are parents and families involved?**

The SCR Panel will give parents, and where appropriate other family members, the opportunity to share their views and comment on the services they have received. They will be contacted by the Chairperson of the Panel through a practitioner who is already in contact with the family.

When the Review is complete the Chair of the Panel will meet with the parents to outline the findings and recommendations and they will be provided with a copy of the redacted and anonymised Overview Report and the Executive Summary.

## How are professionals involved?

The records pertaining to a child or family subject to a SCR will be the main source of evidence regarding the service a child/family received. Staff and managers who have been involved may be involved in a series of events to establish the facts.

Following the completion of the discussions staff should attend a de-briefing session. Once a report has been approved by the Board and published all practitioners should follow the local learning and improvement framework which can be found at:

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20380/safeguarding\\_children\\_information\\_for\\_professionals](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20380/safeguarding_children_information_for_professionals)

## Further Information:

The aim of this leaflet is to provide general information about SCRs. Further information will be available from your organisation's safeguarding children lead or WSCB Member.

Last updated May 2017



# Serious Case Reviews

## Information for Professionals

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) brings together the main organisations that work with children, young people and their families across Worcestershire.

This includes Police, Health, Education, County & District Councils, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The main focus of the work of WSCB is to keep children and young people in Worcestershire safe.