

# 01 Background



Since April 2008, there has been a statutory requirement for the Local Safeguarding Children Boards to review the deaths of children from 0 up to the age of 18 years (regardless of gestation) and it considers all deaths expected or unexpected. The group that completes these reviews within Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire is the Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP); Cases are discussed anonymously with the aim of trying to prevent similar deaths and identify risk factors intrinsic to the child, family and environment and parenting capacity.

Themes/ trends, good practice and a category of death are assigned to each case and we decide whether any of the factors found are modifiable. The CDOP also ensures that the family have been offered support.

# Why it matters 02



This briefing is about how to report into the panel when you have been working with a child who has died. The form which is used to report into CDOP is called 'form AB'. It is a detailed form, which collects a lot of information. Gathering the information is a very detailed job, and it is vital that all the questions are completed, as this is what allows for causes and trends to be identified by the panel.

For example, in the case of a baby dying, it is important to know if the baby used a dummy, the temperature of the room and the ethnicity of the baby/ family. This information, whilst seemingly a minor detail in the case, can help to prevent future deaths.

# 07 Questions

How will we ensure that enough time is allocated for the research and completion of AB forms?  
What are the implications of not completing the form completely –  
• In the short and long term?  
How will we ensure the form is completed by the right professional?  
Would anyone in your service like to observe a meeting?

# 03 Information



The most appropriate person to complete the form is the professional who knew the child or family best as it is easier for them as they already know a lot of the information and therefore it doesn't take as long reviewing the notes.



Reporting in to the CDOP

# What to do 06

If you are filling in an AB form, ensure that you are given time to complete it. There is a statutory deadline of 3 weeks to return it to the CDOP Team. You may have to do some research to find some of the details requested due to the needs of finding commonalities and themes.

Please ensure that you populate the entire form and if you do not have the answer to a particular question within your records, please make this explicit on the form.



- Inform parents (about how to keep their babies safe and risk factors associated with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) such as smoking, BMI, extreme prematurity and sleeping arrangements)

- Provide evidence to services (genetic counselling for families where parents are related)

# 04

It also leads to less information missing and fewer follow up questions from the Panel.

At times, when the information has been omitted from the forms which are submitted to CDOP, these have had to be returned to practitioners for additional information, causing delays and increased work for professionals which could be prevented.

So far we have used information given on form ABs to:

- Inform campaigns (including the safer sleep for babies campaign and risks around the home tool)

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