



# **Serious Case Reviews: Information for Families**

## **What is Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board?**

The **Board** brings together all the main organisations who work with children and families in Peterborough, with the aim of ensuring that we work together effectively to keep children safe.

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

A Serious Case Review looks at how local professionals and organisations worked to look after the child or young person at the centre of the Review. A Serious Case Review may also look at how they have worked with other children and adults in the immediate family.

A Serious Case Review considers what was done, what lessons can be learned for the future and what changes may need to be made. It is not a Criminal Investigation or Public Enquiry and its aim is not to blame but to learn from what has happened.

## **Why are you carrying out a Serious Case Review?**

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is required to carry out a **Serious Case Review** when a child has died, and abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor. Sometimes, it will carry out a Serious Case Review when a child has been seriously or permanently harmed and abuse and/or neglect is thought to have been a factor along with possible issues about how organisations have worked together.

## **Who Will Carry Out the Review?**

A panel of professionals from the Health Service, Children's Services, the Police, Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service, and sometimes other organisations such as Housing, the NSPCC, are led by an independent expert in child protection (the 'Chair'). Each agency or organisation will provide full details of what services they gave you and your family, over a certain period of time. The panel will meet to review the information and prepare a report.

The aim of this report is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way organisations work together to keep children safe, in order to improve services to children and families.

### ***What Will I / We Have To Do?***

You do not have to do anything. However, you will have the opportunity to give your views about the services if you would like to although this sometimes needs to be delayed to take into account any related coronial or criminal proceedings. We will make sure that there is someone who can help you to do this (please see back page). We can learn a lot from parents and also from children and young people who are old enough to contribute.

### **Who Will See the Report?**

During the review all the reports are kept confidential to those who represent organisations on the PSCB, or have contributed to the review, and the staff within those organisations who worked with the child and their family. However, sometimes the coroner asks to see reports and to use parts of them during an inquest.

We are required to produce an **Overview Report**, which outlines the key findings and recommendations of the review without giving personal details. This report is fully anonymised and has to be published on our web site. If there are criminal proceedings these reports are not available until after the end of the trial.

Your personal contact and/or the Chair of the Review will usually meet with you and discuss what is in the report.

Your personal contact or the chair of the review will contact you and arrange to give you a copy of the report if you wish.

### **How Long Will the Review Take?**

In practice, we have found that it usually takes six to nine months from the event that leads to the Serious Case Review to publication of the Overview Report.

In this leaflet we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions families have about Serious Case Reviews. Of course, each case is different and you may have other questions you would like to ask. Please feel free to ask these or seek further information by contacting Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's Business Manager:

**Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bayard Place**  
**Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 1FB.**  
**Telephone: 01733 863765**  
**Email: [pscb@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:pscb@peterborough.gov.uk)**

If you want to know more about Serious Case Reviews, you can look at **Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2013 – Chapter 4**, which can be found on the .gov.uk website:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281368/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281368/Working_together_to_safeguard_children.pdf)