



Contact Us

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This leaflet can be made available in other
languages and formats upon request.

Serious Case Review Information Leaflet



What is a Serious Case Review (SCR)?

A SCR looks at how local professionals and organisations worked together to safeguard the child or young person at the centre of the review. It may also look at how they are working with other children in the immediate family. The review considers what has happened, 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 apportion blame but to ensure that organisations learn lessons to help them keep children safe in the future.

SCRs are conducted under the guidance of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015:

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of LSCBs. This includes the requirement for LSCBs to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances. Regulation 5(1) (e) and (2) set out an LSCB's function in relation to serious case reviews, namely:

- 5 (1) (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned;
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case is one where:
 - (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
 - (b) either - (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

SCRs and other case reviews should be conducted in a way which:

- recognises the complex circumstances in which professionals work together to safeguard children;
- seeks to understand precisely who did what and the underlying reasons that led individuals and organisations to act as they did;
- seeks to understand practice from the viewpoint of the individuals and organisations involved at the time rather than using hindsight;
- is transparent about the way data is collected and analysed; and
- makes use of of relevant research and case evidence to inform the findings.

6 Step Briefings

A summary of findings and recommendations for each completed Serious Case Review is available on the NSCB's website:

www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-board/scr/

Summaries from other Multi-Agency Reviews can also be found on the NSCB website.



National Learning from SCR's

The NSCB use the NSPCC National Case Review Repository to monitor and learn from SCR's published nationally.

The National Case Review Repository can be accessed at - www.nspcc.org.uk.

Please use the search function and enter 'Case Review Repository'.