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# Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Local Learning Reviews

Children's MARS Policy and Procedures

Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice

2019

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# Context

- complex multi agency system with many different organisations
- reflection is critical to constantly improve multi agency response to children and families
- sometimes a child suffers a serious injury or death as a result of child abuse or neglect
- understanding what happened but also why things happened as they did can help to improve our response in the future
- asking could different approaches or actions have resulted in a different outcome
- leads to us making good judgments about what might need to change at a local or national level

[Improving child protection and safeguarding practice](#)

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# Learning outcomes - to understand

- definition of a serious child safeguarding case
- purpose of a child safeguarding practice review (CSPR)
- responsibilities of the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel)
- responsibilities of local safeguarding partners
- decision making process about local and national reviews
- rapid review process
- key points when completing a local CSPR or contributing to a national CSPR
  
- definition and purpose of a multi agency local learning review (LLR)
  
- interface with other reviewing processes
- differences of opinion
  
- What to do if ...  
process of notification of a CSPR or consideration for a LLR

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# Definition of a serious child safeguarding case

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected **and**
- the child has died or been seriously harmed

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health.

This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.

Child perpetrators may also be the subject of a review, if the definition of 'serious child safeguarding case' is met.



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## Purpose of a CSPR

- to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at both local and national level
- to understanding whether there are systemic issues and whether policy and practice need to change
- critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving
- not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account

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# Responsibilities of the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel)

- how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Panel
- identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance
- issued practice guidance in April 2019 on the conduct of CSPRs

[Child safeguarding practice review panel: practice guidance](#)

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## Responsibilities of local safeguarding partners

- how the system learns the lessons lies at a local level with the safeguarding partners
- make arrangements to identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area
- safeguarding partners, via the local authority, will notify the Panel within **5 working days** of becoming aware of a serious child safeguarding incident that meets the criteria
- commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

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# Decision making process about local and national reviews

Safeguarding partners have delegated the responsibility to the following representatives for them to consider the criteria and guidance and determine whether to carry out a local child safeguarding practice review

- ❖ Designated Nurse (North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)
- ❖ Head of Safeguarding Children (North Lincolnshire Council) and
- ❖ Detective Superintendent (Humberside Police)

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPRG) will be convened with the safeguarding partners' representatives as the core members



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## The criteria which the local safeguarding partners must take into account include whether the case:

- highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate

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## **Safeguarding partners should also have regard to the following circumstances:**

- where the safeguarding partners have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency
- where there has been no agency involvement and this gives the safeguarding partners cause for concern
- where more than one local authority, police area or clinical commissioning group is involved, including in cases where families have moved around
- where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings

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# Rapid review process

- should be completed within 15 working days of the safeguarding partners becoming aware of the incident
- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review

All agencies should consider the impact of the case on the welfare of staff and provide support

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## Rapid review process cont.

- will be undertaken via agencies providing a written report about the facts of the case and the potential for identifying improvements
- five working days for agencies, schools, colleges to complete report
- CSPRG will evaluate agency reports and decide the next steps
- CSPRG makes a recommendation to the safeguarding partners about whether to complete a local review, recommend a national review or do no review
- safeguarding partners confirm or challenge the recommendation
- safeguarding partners send a copy of rapid review to the Panel and share their decision

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# Rapid review process and the Panel

- must decide whether recommendation is appropriate and whether to commission a national review
- consider criteria and guidance in addition to that for safeguarding partners:
  - ❖ raises or may raise issues requiring legislative change or changes to guidance issued under or further to any enactment
  - ❖ significant harm or death to a child educated otherwise than at school
  - ❖ where a child is seriously harmed or dies while in the care of a local authority, or while on (or recently removed from) a child protection plan
  - ❖ cases which involve a range of types of abuse
- respond promptly to the safeguarding partners with a decision on the majority of cases within 15 working days of a rapid review being received

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# Key points when completing a local CSPR

Safeguarding partners will:

- commission and supervise reviewer(s)
- agree the methodology – taking into account Working Together 2018 and the principles of systems methodology
- make sure the review is proportionate to the circumstances of the case, focuses on potential learning, establishes and explains the reasons why the events occurred as they did
- ensure practitioners are fully involved in reviews
- ensure families, including surviving children, are invited to contribute
- complete review no later than six months from the date of the decision to initiate one

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# Final report

Safeguarding partners must ensure that the final report includes:

- a summary of any recommended improvements to be made by persons in the area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- an analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not in respect of matters covered by the report
- publish the report (or information about improvements required) for at least one year
- send a copy of the report to the Panel, Secretary of State and Ofsted no later than seven working days before the date of publication

For further information see:

[Child safeguarding practice review panel: practice guidance](#)

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# Actions in response to local and national reviews

Safeguarding partners should:

- take account of the findings from their own local reviews and from all national reviews considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally
- ensure improvement is sustained through regular follow up of actions so that the findings make a real impact on improving outcomes for children

CSPRG or Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) will take the leadership for oversight of the action plan

Action plan will be signed off by the safeguarding partners at the Children's MARS Board



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# National reviews

The panel:

- must set up a pool of potential reviewers to be publicly available
- follow the same guidance for completing, supervision of reviewer(s) and final report as for local CSPRs
- should complete and publish the final report within six months of the date of the decision to initiate a review
- publish the report (or information about improvements required) for at least three years
- must send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State, relevant safeguarding partners, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services no later than seven working days before the date of publication

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# Definition and purpose of a multi agency LLR

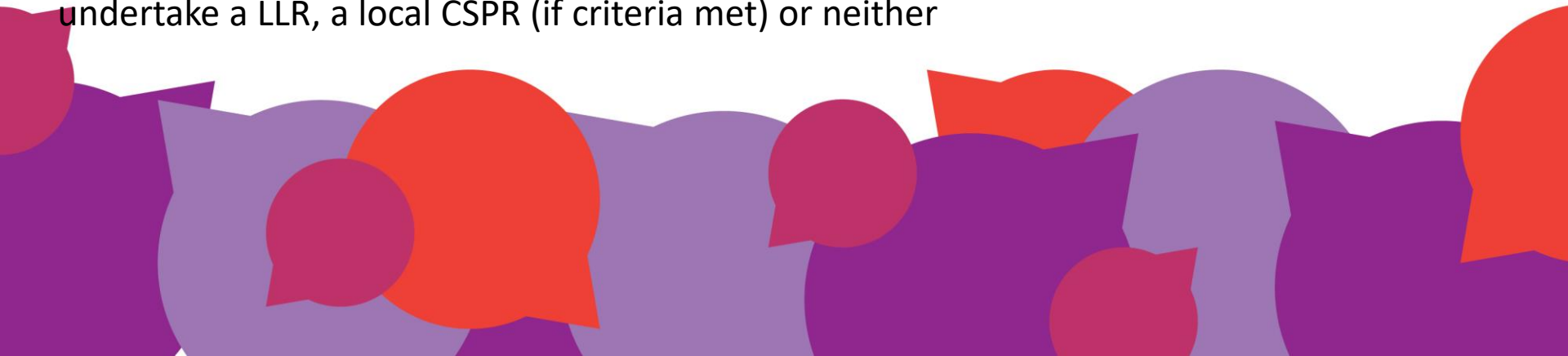
Some cases may not meet the definition of a 'serious child safeguarding case' but may raise issues of importance to the local area where there are:

- indications of exceptional practice (either good or poor) which would benefit local learning
- 'near- miss' event

Safeguarding partners may **choose** to undertake a multi agency LLR

CSPRG to determine the most appropriate and proportionate process to follow

Make a recommendation to the safeguarding partners about whether to undertake a LLR, a local CSPR (if criteria met) or neither



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# Interface with other reviewing processes

Alongside any national or local reviews there could be:

- criminal investigation
- coroner's investigation
- and/or professional body disciplinary procedures

The Panel and the safeguarding partners should have clear processes for how they will work with other investigations including:

- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Reviews
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews

... to reduce burdens on and anxiety for the children and families concerned and to minimise duplication of effort and uncertainty

[Improving child protection and safeguarding practice - Appendix 3](#)

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# Differences of opinion

Should there be any differences of opinion about:

- whether a case meets the criteria of a serious child safeguarding case
- whether a CSPR or multi agency LLR should be undertaken or
- any part of the process

... the organisation(s) representative, who holds the difference of opinion, will liaise with the safeguarding partners representatives and the Multi Agency Innovation Hub in relation to this issue

- if unresolved it will be referred to the safeguarding partners
- if it remains unresolved it will be referred to an Independent Scrutiny Officer to facilitate a mediation meeting

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## Process of notification of a CSPR or consideration for a LLR

- Professionals should discuss the case with their agency's designated safeguarding lead officer/senior manager prior to notification to the safeguarding partners
- Designated safeguarding lead officers/senior managers should discuss the case with one of the safeguarding partner representatives prior to notification if possible
- Must not result in a delay in notification

[Notification forms](#)

### What to do if ...

Notification is via the Multi Agency Innovation Hub at

[mars@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:mars@northlincs.gov.uk)

Note: all emails must be sent by secure email

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**Any questions  
or  
comments?**

Contact and follow us:



[mars@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:mars@northlincs.gov.uk)



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