



Cheshire East Local
Safeguarding Children Board

Serious Case Review

Information for parents and carers



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Introduction

- Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board (CESCB) brings together local agencies to co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is set up under the Children Act 2004.
- When a child dies unexpectedly or has been seriously harmed CESCB is required by Government legislation to consider a Serious Case Review.
- This is to consider whether there are any lessons which may be learnt about the way organisations have worked with you and your family.
- We acknowledge this is likely to be a very difficult time for you and we want to learn all we can for the future.
- CESCB believes that you should know about the review and have the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you have and share any feedback about the help you received.
- This leaflet has been designed to explain what happens and what support we can offer.

What is a Serious Case Review?

The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to establish how organisations, agencies and professionals work together to support families to keep children and young people safe.

It is not an enquiry into the cause of your child's death or serious harm.

It is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police and/or Coroner and it concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved with your family.

A case review panel consists of senior managers from those organisations will meet to have a close look at the work of all the professionals and agencies who have been involved with you and your family.

The members of this panel could include representatives from Health, Children Social Care, Police and Legal Services.

Other organisations and agencies may be asked to attend or give information.

Once it is known that a Serious Case Review has been called, each organisation or agency will be asked to gather and analyse any professional records relating to your child and family until the Serious Case Review has been completed.

It is an independent process conducted by an external reviewer appointed by the Chair of the LSCB.

The process reports to Ofsted.

What happens next?

Each agency or organisation will provide the Serious Case Review panel with full details of when and what services they gave you and your family.

The panel will consider all the reports in detail in order to find out if the expected standards have been met and organisational or agency policies and procedures had been followed.

A summary of the decisions that were made, services which were either offered and/or provided and any other actions that were taken will be considered in detail.

This is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies and organisations work together to safeguard children and young people.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to talk about any involvement that either your child or your family had with individual agencies and organisations.

When the Review has been completed agencies and organisations will then consider what actions they may need to take to change the way they support children, young people and their families in the future.

The recommendations made by the external reviewer will be included in an anonymised executive summary which will be published.

A CESCB representative will

inform you of the outcome of the Review and of any lessons that have been learnt.

A member of the Review panel (usually the chair) can arrange to meet with you to discuss this process and your contact with the organisations and agencies and professionals involved.

A convenient date, time and venue will be arranged.

Having support during this meeting is encouraged, this could be your solicitor, or any other professional you think appropriate or a family member or a family friend. Home visits will be agreed if you wish, alternatively a venue of your choice will be considered.

If you wish to arrange such a meeting please contact the CESCB Project Manager. All calls will be treated with sensitivity and if the manager is not available when you call please leave a telephone contact and a time when you will be available.

Contact

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