

# Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements: Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews - October 2021

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# Background

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- ❑ New arrangements for a safeguarding children (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018) took effect on 29 September 2019
- ❑ The three statutory safeguarding partners – Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group, and Avon & Somerset Constabulary - have shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Somerset
- ❑ Serious Case Reviews replaced by rapid reviews and, where appropriate, local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.



# Significant incidents of harm

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**Significant Incident of Harm**, as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

CSC notifies the **National Child Safeguarding Practice Review** panel within 5 days of the incident

Triggers a multi-agency **Rapid Review**

Information gathering from all agencies involved

# Rapid reviews



# Somerset rapid reviews

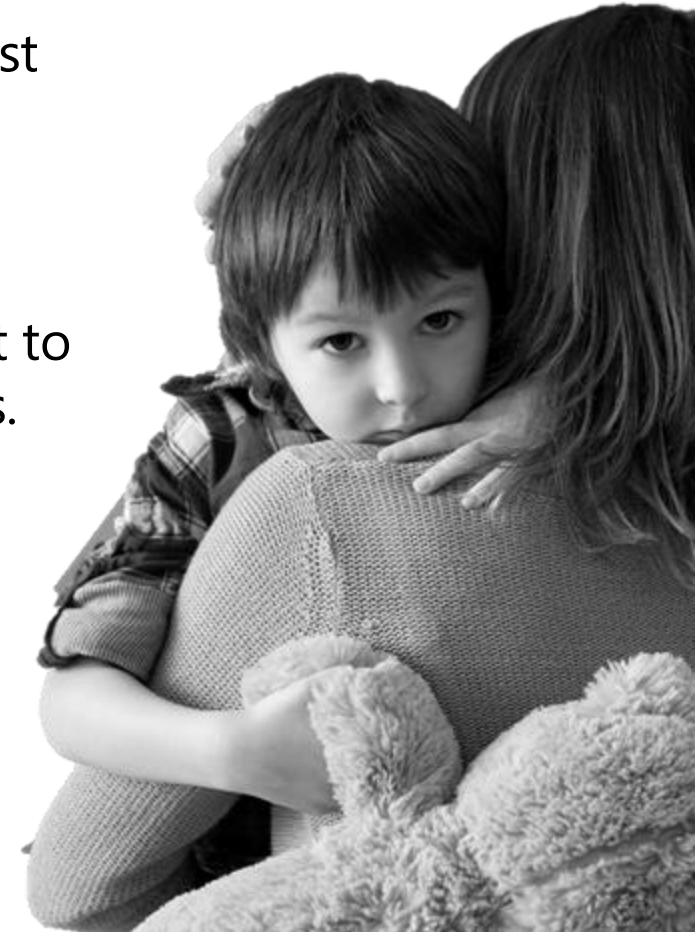
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- ❑ Since September 2019, 11 rapid reviews
- ❑ Three were adolescents, one of which progressed to LCSPR in another authority
- ❑ Of the remaining eight children subject to a rapid review, two reviews were concluded at the rapid review stage
- ❑ Two progressed to LCSPRs in Somerset, published August 2021
- ❑ A further four will be considered as part of a thematic review of similar circumstances where children have been harmed. Not yet in public domain.

# Local child safeguarding practice reviews

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- ❑ Two local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were published in August 2021 relating to non-accidental harm to very young children
- ❑ Since the inception of both reviews in spring 2020, the SSCP has been committed to implementing the learning relating to more effective identification of risks to children in the pre-birth period, better support to fathers and male carers, and improved communication across agencies.



# Local child safeguarding practice reviews

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- ❑ Child Charlie: died unexpectedly aged sixteen weeks in care of father. Possible co sleeping. Poor home conditions with father, mother had no permanent home. Alcohol and substance use, domestic abuse.
- ❑ Child Alex: child presented to hospital early 2020, aged ten weeks, with serious and unexplained injuries. Mother in a relationship with a new partner, and concerns noted by agencies following premature birth.



# Key learning

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- ❑ Scope for better identification of risks in the pre-birth period
- ❑ Greater involvement of fathers/male carers
- ❑ Better understanding of levels of need
- ❑ Strengthening of multi agency strategy discussions with clear plans
- ❑ Consideration of domestic abuse incidents cumulatively
- ❑ Improved information sharing across borders





# Local child safeguarding practice reviews

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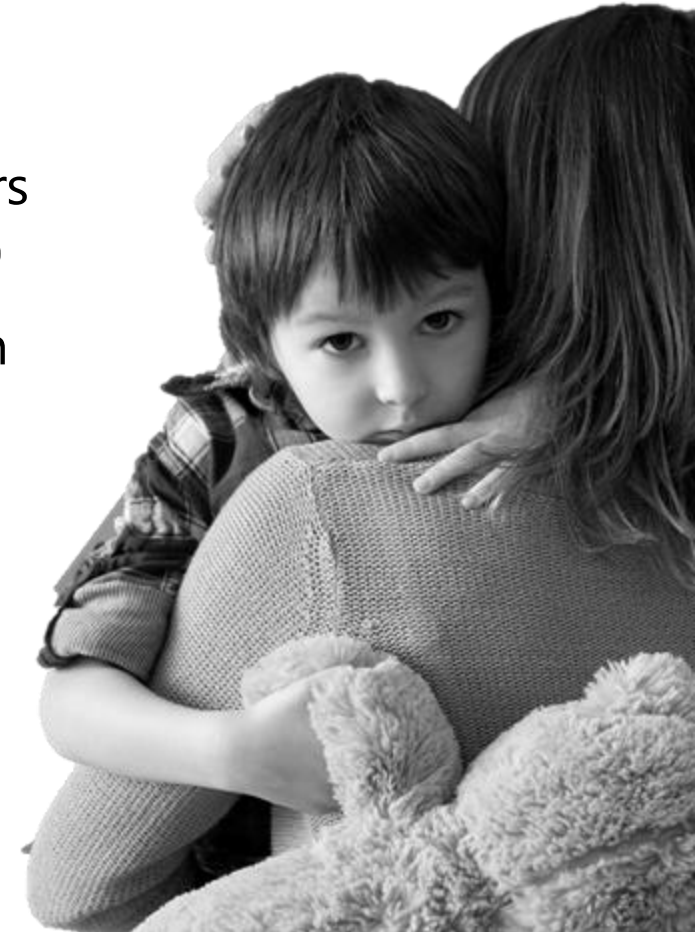
- ❑ South West Child Protection procedures for identifying risks in the pre-birth period have been updated
- ❑ Multi-agency collaboration to strengthen strategy discussions
- ❑ Multi-agency linked professional initiative during the lockdown ensured that the most vulnerable families continued to be supported
- ❑ Introduction of multi-agency pre-birth tracking initiative
- ❑ Health partners reviewed their supervision policies and training with immediate effect
- ❑ Threshold guidance for services is being refreshed ('Effective Support')
- ❑ Development of a prebirth workbook and refresh of the neglect toolkit



# Local child safeguarding practice reviews

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- ❑ Avon & Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership leading on force wide approach to domestic abuse notifications
- ❑ Forum weeks held twice per year for all Somerset safeguarding partners have raised awareness of the learning (Dec 2020, June 2021, Dec 2021)
- ❑ Summer 2020, series of events to share early learning which reached in excess of 200 frontline staff
- ❑ Forum week in December 2021 will focus on support for fathers/male carers



# Somerset Safeguarding Children Forum Week

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6th - 10th December 2021



## Somerset Safeguarding Children Forum Week

Save the Date!