

## These organisations may be helpful

### **Child Death Helpline**

Freephone 0800 282986

[www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk](http://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk)

A free phone service for anyone affected by the death of a child

### **Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths**

Helpline 0207 802 3200

[www.fsid.org.uk](http://www.fsid.org.uk)

A UK charity funding research and support services for bereaved families.

### **Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society**

Helpline 0207 4365881

[www.uk-sands.org.uk](http://www.uk-sands.org.uk)

A UK charity providing support for bereaved families and their friends.

### **Demelza House**

[www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk)

01795 845 216 (bereavement services)

01795 845 200 (switchboard)

A Sittingborne based hospice also providing bereavement support for families.

### **Compassionate Friends**

0845 123 2304

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

A national befriending organisation for bereaved families.

Produced by:

**Medway Safeguarding Children Board**

**Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham  
ME4 4TR**

e-mail: [mscb@medway.gov.uk](mailto:mscb@medway.gov.uk)

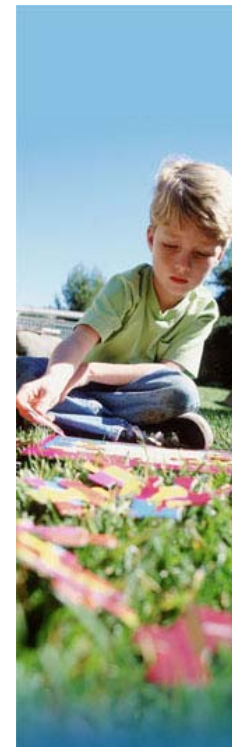
website: [www.mscb.org.uk](http://www.mscb.org.uk)



**Medway  
Safeguarding  
Children  
Board**

**Information for  
Parents**

**The Child Death Overview  
Panel**



The death of a child is always tragic and a very sad and difficult time for family and friends. The Medway Safeguarding Children Board offer sympathies to you and your family at this sad time.

We are sorry to have to contact you at this time but we need to let you know that Government legislation now requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards to review the death of every child and young person up to the age of eighteen in their area. These Reviews have been set up because the Government believes that a review may help services working with children to improve their practice and therefore help other children and families in the future.

### How does a Review happen?

Information about each child and the circumstances of their death must be collected and summarised into a short report from records held by hospitals, local health services, schools, police, children's services or other agencies whose staff knew the child.

A small Child Death Overview Panel of doctors, other health specialists and child care professionals must consider the report to understand

what caused the child's death and what support and treatment was offered to the child and their family up to the death; and also what support was offered to the family after that time.

The Child Death Overview Panel must consider whether they can make any recommendations to improve how things are done for children and their families. These recommendations must be shared with the local health trusts, children's services and the police, as well as specialist agencies such as the fire service or traffic authorities as appropriate.

These recommendations can then affect the planning of services for children and families in the future.



### What does this mean for you?

As part of this process the Local Safeguarding Children Board has been informed of your child's death. Our first concern is that you and your family have received any available support which could help you through this difficult time. A list of useful contacts is given at the back of this leaflet.

We also want to ensure that you know that we are required to do a Review and to plan for the circumstances of your child's death to be included at a future meeting of a Child Death Overview Panel.

It may take several months as we cannot do this until all other enquiries are completed, such as the work of the pathologist and coroner, or any legal processes.

### You may feel able to contribute

Parents and family representatives do not attend the Panel meetings. If you wish to contribute to the Panel's discussion you are welcome to contact us by writing to Medway Safeguarding Children Board.

All the information we gather will be treated with the deepest respect and in strictest confidence, and we promise that none of our recommendations or reports will name your child or family. Any recommendations that result from the Review can be shared with you.