Serious Case Reviews

1. The Safeguarding Partnership Boards will conduct Serious Case Reviews SCRs[1], in respect of children, Safeguarding Adult Reviews[2] in relation to adults, child death reviews and partnership reviews into cases that can identify learning as to the way organisations work together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and adults. The signatories and Independent Chair agree that these reviews will be conducted in accordance with the criteria in Working Together 2013 (for children) and in accordance with guidance that will be guided by the UK Care Bill when it is implemented and agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (for adults).
2. The signatories agree to ensure that, SCRs will be conducted in accordance with the following principles and practices:
    a. the approach taken to SCRs will be proportionate according to the scale and level of complexity of the issues being examined;
    b. SCRs will be led by experienced independent consultants who will be contracted to act as the SCR Panel Chair and the Independent overview Author
    c. All organisations will nominate individuals who are independent of the case under review and have professional knowledge of the area under review to complete Management Reports that inform the Overview Report;
    d. SCRs will makes use of relevant research and case evidence to inform the findings and will seek to understand practice from the viewpoint of the individuals and organisations involved at the time, rather than using hindsight;
    e. practitioners must be fully involved in reviews and invited to contribute their perspectives without fear of being blamed for actions they took in good faith; reviews must recognise the complex circumstances in which professionals work together to safeguard children and adults; and the procedures in operation at the time of the incidents that led to the review;
    f. families, including surviving children, should be invited to contribute to reviews and they should understand how they are going to be involved and have their expectations managed appropriately and sensitively;
    g. the child or adult should remain at the centre and focus of the process;
    h. the overview report of SCRs will be published, including the Safeguarding Partnership Board's response to the review findings; however, careful consideration should be given by the Safeguarding Partnership Boards, in respect of each review, to the need to balance the benefits of publishing all or

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[1] For these purposes a serious case is one where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and 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 organisation or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

[2] Safeguarding adult reviews should be arranged by the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board when: i) there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAPB, members or other person involved, worked together to safeguard the adult ii) the adult dies iii) an adult with needs for care and support was, or the SAPB suspects that the adult was, experiencing abuse or neglect.

some of the outcomes of a review with the need to protect the rights, including the privacy rights, of individuals. The signatories and the Independent Chair recognise that in some cases, the Boards may decide that this balance may weigh in favour of withholding from publication some or all of the contents of a review.

i. the impact of SCRs and other reviews on improving services to children and families and on reducing the incidence of deaths or serious harm to children or adults must be described in the Safeguarding Partnership Board's annual reports and will inform any inspections.

j. Improvement must be sustained through regular monitoring and audit so that the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children and adults.