



Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

What are they?

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (previously known as Serious Case Reviews) should be considered for serious child safeguarding cases when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, and a child has died or been seriously harmed. This may include cases where a child has caused serious harm to someone else.

There are two types of reviews:

- **Local reviews** – where safeguarding partners consider that a case raises issues of importance in relation to their area
- **National reviews** – where the [National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) considers that a case raises issues which are complex or of national importance. The Panel may also commission reviews on any incident(s) or theme they think relevant

A review is not about blaming those involved but rather it is about looking at what happened to the child and learning from this.

Who is responsible for the review?

For national reviews the responsibility lies with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel; for local review with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Chief Officers of Police, and Integrated Care Board).

At a local level, the safeguarding partners must plan to:

- Identify and consider serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to their area
- Commission and oversee child safeguarding practice reviews of those cases, where they consider it to be appropriate
- Undertake a rapid review of the case to identify any immediate action to ensure a child's safety, consider the potential for identifying learning and help inform a decision about whether to undertake a child safeguarding practice review
- Send a copy of the rapid review to the child safeguarding practice review panel along with their decision about whether to carry out a local child safeguarding practice review and whether they think a national review may be more appropriate

At a national level, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is responsible for:

- Identifying serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues that are complex or of national importance
- Overseeing the review of these cases

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

5 Minute Facts

- Setting up a pool of potential reviewers who can undertake national reviews, a list of whom must be publicly available
- Agreeing the potential scope and methodology of the review with the local safeguarding partners and engaging with them and others involved in the case

What should a review do?

All child safeguarding practice reviews should:

- Reflect the child's lived experience and the family context
- Be proportionate to the circumstances of the case
- Focus on potential learning
- Establish and explain the reasons why the events occurred as they did

The final report should include:

- A summary of recommended improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- An analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not taken

Reports should be completed no later than six months after the date of the decision to carry out a review.

The safeguarding partners should highlight findings from reviews across their local area and with all partners. They should regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements. Response to learning from reviews should make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

Useful Links

[NSPCC National Case Review Repository](#)

www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk

For more information...

Please contact Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership at www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk

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