

Useful contacts:

Support and resources for bereaved parents and families:

The Child Bereavement Charity –

Helpline: 01494 568900 (office hours)

www.childbereavement.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends –

Helpline: 0845 123 2304 (10.00am-4.00pm/
6.30pm-10.30pm)

www.helpline@tcf.org.uk

Support and counselling for all bereaved persons:

Cruse (Bereavement Care) –

Helpline: 0844 4779400 (9.30am-5.00 pm)

www.helpline@cruse.org.uk

Support for families bereaved through a sudden infant death (cot death):

Lullaby Trust–

Helpline: 0808 802 6869

www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) –

Helpline: 020 7436 5881 (9.30am-5.30pm

Mon-Fri). www.helpline@uk-sands.org

Further information about the role of Hillingdon Child Death Overview Panel can be found at

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/cdop

or the Government Guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2013) available

www.education.gov.uk/.../working-together-to-safeguard-children



When a child dies

**Information for
Parents, Families
and Carers**

Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive and difficult subject, which can be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers. This leaflet provides a list of organisations that you may find useful.

What the Law requires

Government legislation now requires all local authorities, via their Safeguarding Children Board, to review the death of every child (up to the age of 18 years) in their area. This is because the government believes that it may help other children and families in the future. This will be done in two ways:

1. Rapid Response

A rapid response is a process undertaken by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into a sudden and unexpected death of a child.

This may mean a visit to where your child died by a community paediatrician, and or a police officer, health professional and/or social worker, which may take place within a few days of your child's death.

2. Review of all child deaths (under 18 years)

The Child Death Overview Panel, consisting of doctors, other health specialists and childcare professionals, must consider information about your child and the circumstances of their death. This will not happen until all other processes are completed which generally takes about 6 months.

What is the purpose of a Review?

The over arching purpose of the Child Death Overview Panel is to prevent future deaths of children. CDOP review every child death and must consider whether they can make any recommendations to improve services for children and their families or identify any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children. These recommendations may assist in the planning of services for children and families in the future.

You may feel able to contribute

Write or telephone us to share any information about your child that you feel may help the process. Unfortunately it is not possible for parents or family representatives to attend the Panel meetings.

All the information we gather will be treated with the deepest respect and in strictest confidence. We promise that none of our findings, recommendations or reports will name your child or family.

The Coroner

In certain circumstances, deaths must be reported to the coroner; for example, when a death is sudden and of unknown cause, due to an injury, soon after an operation or when a doctor does not know the cause of death. Whilst the coroner is totally independent of the process, he/she will be asked to share any relevant information concerning the death of your child with the Panel and the case will not be reviewed the Panel until after the inquest.