



Issue No.8

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Adrian Over

FAO All Head teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads

Dear colleagues

The contribution of schools, FE Colleges and early years settings to the work of the Warwickshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

I am writing to inform all Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads about the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and the role of schools, colleges and early years settings in that work.

CDOPs were introduced by the government in April 2008 to review the deaths of all children aged 0-17 years, irrespective of how they died, in order to identify any learning and/or wider public health issues which may prevent future deaths. This is a statutory requirement carried out on behalf of Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board as detailed in Chapter 5 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*.

The CDOP is comprised of senior managers from health, social care, police and education. I sit on the panel as Education Safeguarding Manager. All of the information provided to the panel is anonymised and panel members therefore do not know the identity of the child being reviewed or their family.

A number of colleagues will already be aware of the process and have already contributed to the work of CDOP by providing information following requests by the CDOP Manager. I would like to thank those colleagues for their co-operation.

For those fortunate not yet to have been asked to provide information, I would like to explain why information from schools, colleges and EY settings is so important to the process.

The review conducted is a holistic review which includes information intrinsic to the child or young person; information on the family environment; parenting capacity; service provision (by any service) and follow up support for the family.

It is therefore recognised that schools, colleges and EY settings hold important information about the child/young person that has died, her/his sibling(s) and, in most cases, the family as a whole. The panel also appreciates an understanding of how families and siblings are coping following the death of a loved one and in many cases schools, colleges and EY settings are best placed to provide that information.

The panel is particularly interested to know if there have been any changes in behaviour or concerns noted in relation to sibling(s); what support has been offered or provided and information on the family environment and school interaction with parent(s). If any ongoing concerns are highlighted, I follow those up with individual schools and colleges. Warwickshire County Council's Early Years team is asked to follow up with early years settings.

I hope this information provides sufficient explanation. If you require any further information or would like to discuss the work of CDOP, please do not hesitate to contact the CDOP Manager Dara Lloyd (Tel: 01926 742279; E: daralloyd@warwickshire.gov.uk).

The panel greatly appreciates the information that schools, colleges and EY settings provide.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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