



Child Safeguarding
Practice Review Panel

7 October 2019

Dear Gavin,

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW
PANEL'S SECOND NATIONAL REVIEW**

I wrote to you on 22 August as Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel setting out my intention to launch our second national review. I am now pleased to write to inform you that we are ready to formally announce and begin this review.

We have received notification of a significant number of serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues which are complex and of national importance in relation to sudden unexpected infant death (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of harm. We continue to see such cases month after month – over 40 in the 16 months since we began our work and SUDI cases are one of the most frequent causes of child death that we see. The terms of reference are annexed to this letter and we expect the review to commence in mid-October and complete within six months.

Peter Sidebotham is the Panel Member who will lead the Review, working to me. He is an emeritus professor of child health at Warwick Medical School. He has over 20 years' experience as a consultant paediatrician and academic specialising in child protection, including 15 years as a designated doctor for Safeguarding in Warwickshire prior to his retirement in October 2018. Peter will be supported by Panel Members, Sarah Elliott and Dr Susan Tranter. Sarah has 38 years clinical and leadership experience in the NHS including as Regional Chief Nurse for NHS England South. She was also previously Chair of Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Children Safeguarding Boards. Susan is Executive Head Teacher of Edmonton County Schools and Chief Executive of Edmonton Academy Trust. She is also a Member of the Audit and Risk Committee for the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

We have recruited an expert team from our pool of national reviewers to assist them and Isabelle Trowler, the Government's Chief Social Worker, will work closely with them offering advice and support as required. I will have oversight across the review and will sign-off progress on a monthly basis.

I am circulating this letter to your Cabinet colleagues with an interest in this issue, including the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely,
Edward.

EDWARD TIMPSON CBE

Chair, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Terms of Reference

Review Question: In families considered to be at high risk of significant harm through child abuse or neglect, how can professional's best support the parents to ensure that safer sleep advice can be heard and embedded in parenting practice so as to reduce the risks of SUDI?

The review will focus on the following areas:

- What can we learn from these cases about the ways in which safer sleep advice is currently delivered to and received by high-risk families?
- How can professionals engage more effectively with high-risk families to enable safer sleep advice to be taken on board and embedded into parenting practice?
- Is delivery of the universal advice to pregnant women and parents sufficiently risk sensitive to address the particular hazards detailed above?
- Is any further refinement required in the way safer sleeping advice is delivered to high-risk families?
- Is there further insight to be gathered from Child Death Overview Panel data in terms of at risk groups or risk factors that may be relevant to this review question?

What is out of scope?

- The wider epidemiology of SUDI/Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), or review the known risk factors for SUDI/SIDS, except in so far as this relates to the primary review question.
- Cases of SUDI for which a medical or forensic cause (e.g. intracranial haemorrhage, intentional smothering) is found