

Pan Berkshire CDOP Newsletter

CDOP is the subgroup of Berkshire West Safeguarding Partnership; Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board; Slough Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Windsor & Maidenhead Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

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Water safety for children and young people

With summer approaching, please help us to spread the message about how to keep children and young people safe near water.

Drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death in children in the UK. The majority of cases are preventable.

On average 40-50 children drown per year in the UK. During the school holidays, and in hot weather, increasing numbers of children and young people put themselves at risk of drowning.

A recent report from the NCMD (National Child Mortality Database) team at the University of Bristol shows an increase in child drownings in England, with children from minority ethnic groups and families from deprived areas at increased risk.

There has been an **85% increase** in the number of child drownings in England between 2019 and 2022, with 20 drownings occurring in 2019/20 compared with 37 in 2021/22.

The Water Safety Partnership is a joint partnership with Thames Valley Police and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to try to prevent as many water based fatalities and injuries as possible. See the links below for further resources.

- [Water Safety Messages - Key Resources - PPP](#)
- [Float to Live - Tiktok video made by young people](#)
- [Tom Dean, double Olympic gold medallist swimmer, shares important water safety message.](#)



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Purpose of CDOP

Since their establishment in 2008, the purpose of CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) is to:

- Learn from the deaths of children to help identify ways of preventing future deaths.
- Identify any improvements that can be made in the services provided to children and their families.
- Improve the experience of bereaved families and support professionals to care for families effectively.

For further information about CDOP and the Pan Berkshire CDOP team please email:
PanBerkshire.CDOP@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



Falls

Around 10 children die as a result of falls each year - some from windows and balconies and the remainder mostly from stairs.

Falls are by far the most common causes of accidents in the home; they account for **44 per cent** of all children's accidents.

Most falls involve tripping over on the same level. However, the most serious consequences result from falls between two levels, such as falling out of a pram or high chair or falling from a bed. The worst injuries are sustained when a child falls from a great height or lands on something hard, sharp or hot.

Many accidents are caused by horseplay involving pushing, shoving and wrestling. Children have also died or have been seriously injured by heavy objects such as furniture and televisions being pushed or pulled over them. Sets of drawers, in a child's eyes, make ideal climbing frames but, if unsecured, they pull over easily.



Stairs and windows

Prevention

- Fit a safety gate (**BS EN 1930:2011**) at the top and bottom of stairs
- Never leave tripping hazards on the stairs
- Stairs should be carefully maintained - damaged or worn carpet should be repaired or removed
- Make sure balustrades are strong and do not have any footholds for climbing
- Stairs should always be well lit
- Fit child resistant window restrictors but make sure you can get out easily in an emergency
- Do not put anything under the window that can be climbed on
- Furniture and tall kitchen appliances, at risk from being pulled over, should be secured to the wall.

Pan Berkshire CDOP webpages

The CDOP webpages have been relocated to the Bracknell Forest Council website.

[Child Death Overview Panel](#)

Reporting a child death via eCDOP

All notifications of a child death must be made via this public link:

www.ecdop.co.uk/panberkshire/live/Public

