
Pan Berkshire CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) Newsletter

Spring 2026

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Meet the Pan Berkshire CDOP Team

Debra Clothier – The Independent Chair,

Carl Bradford – CDOP Coordinator,

Rachael Warnock - CDOP Administrator.

Pan Berkshire CDOP is hosted by Bracknell Forest but also covers Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham.

Contact: panberkshire.cdop@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Notify a child death: Anyone can notify CDOP of a child death via eCDOP: [PanBerkshire eCDOP](#)

Since their establishment in 2018, CDOPs aim 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.

The year ahead:

The CDOP administration team will be seeking to;

- a) increase the support for Keyworkers so that families and children's voices can be better heard.
- b) increasing the amount and quality of data collection for cases so that better analysis and risk-prevention can take place locally and nationally.

Product Safety Alert: baby sleep pillows

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Product Safety Alert about baby sleep pillows, warning that these products present a risk of serious harm or death to infants. These products are marketed or intended to be used as pillows or cushions for babies to sleep on or with, including when placed in a cot or crib.

- Main risks include **suffocation** and **overheating**, which can lead to serious injury or death - particularly when a baby is left unattended or the product is used for sleep.



For further information:
[Product Safety Alert: Baby Sleep Pillows \(PSA8\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alert/baby-sleep-pillows-psa8)

Spotlight: Safe sleeping work by Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) NHS Foundation Trust

A multi-professional safe sleeping group has been set up within RBH, looking at safe sleep practices for families from deprived, ethnic minority and faith communities due to deaths the trust has experienced. They have been looking at ways they could improve the service, such as:

At booking, requests have been put on electronic patient records to discuss what the sleep environment will be like. This will hopefully identify the women and families that may not have the equipment and link them into local charities like Cowshed so all babies will have a safe space to sleep. They've also looked at using alternate language leaflets from the Lullaby Trust, so they are accessible to families where English is not their first language, using visual prompts on the post-natal wards and employing more maternity support workers.

It was recognised there had been two child deaths in the Muslim community so Dr Ravi Kumar, Dr Charlie Fulham and colleagues visited a local mosque to hand out Lullaby Trust leaflets in English, Arabic and Urdu to the congregation and held conversations to promote safe sleep practices. Magnetic thermometers were also given out for sleeping areas produced by RBFT which monitor the room's temperature. This was felt to be a very successful way of reaching people and to be continued.

Safe sleep bitesize training

- Multi-agency training for practitioners and volunteers working with families, especially those visiting families at home.
- Introductory session for those who do not routinely give safe sleep advice and want to build knowledge and confidence.
- All sessions are delivered via MS Teams.

Available dates:

- Monday 16 March, 15:00–16:00
- Friday 24 April, 12:30–13:30
- Thursday 21 May, 09:30–10:30
- Wednesday 17 June, 13:00–14:00



To book (or for further information): frimleyicb.safeguarding@nhs.net

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026: implications for CDR (Child Death Review) partners

Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC) 2026 does not change the statutory Child Death Review process itself, which continues to be governed by the *Child Death Review: Statutory & Operational Guidance (2018)*.

However, WTSC 2026 *does* impact how Child Death Review partners operate by strengthening the wider safeguarding system in which reviews sit.

In practical terms, CDOPs and CDR partners will need to:

- update local procedures to align with new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) expectations,
- strengthen data analysis, especially disproportionality and inequality,
- improve evidence of impact in annual reports,
- ensure learning feeds into Family Help and wider safeguarding system reforms,
- review accountability and information-sharing arrangements with ICBs, police, and other partners.

Seasonal safety: falls from windows and balconies

As the weather gets warmer, families may open windows more often - this can increase the risk of young children falling from windows or balconies.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) provides free resources, including factsheets translated into Arabic, Bengali, Polish, Punjabi, Urdu, Welsh and more.

More information available here: [Preventing Falls Resources | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

Learning & further reading

Coming up:

- 1) **NCMD - Shifting perceptions of children's palliative care** - [Palliative care in children](#) - Webinar: Wednesday 20th May, 1030 – 1200
- 2) **Child Safety Week 1 to 7 June 2026** - Making prevention possible - [Child Safety Week | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

Published:

- 1) **NCMD (National Child Mortality Data Base)** - [Child death reviews in 2026: Spring update](#) - Webinar: Thursday 30th April
- 2) **Operation Encompass** – The Police duty to inform educational establishments of domestic abuse relating to young people - [Duty on police forces in England and Wales to notify education establishments of domestic abuse incidents: Operation Encompass & Home : Operation Encompass](#)
- 3) **Protecting vulnerable babies** - Feb 2026 - [Protecting all vulnerable babies better – National review into the broader safeguarding issues raised by the death of baby Victoria Marten](#)

- 4) **The National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation in England**, chaired by Baroness Amos - interim findings report. [Independent Investigation into Maternity and Neonatal Services in England - Interim Report - National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation](#)
- 5) **The British Association of Perinatal Medicine** (BAPM) Neonatal Mortality Governance Framework has been published - this complements existing national and statutory guidance. [Neonatal Mortality Governance | British Association of Perinatal Medicine](#)
- 6) **NCMD - CDOP Area Hospital Deaths** – Feb 2026 - [CDOP Area Hospital Deaths Report](#)
- 7) **NCMD Consanguinity** – Mar 2026 - [Understanding-consanguinity-related-child-deaths.pdf](#)
- 8) **Medicine and co-sleeping** – NCMD – Mar 2026 - The BNF and BNFC’s guidance on medicines that cause drowsiness has been updated to help prevent co-sleeping deaths. - [British National Formulary updates medicine guidance](#)
- 9) **Fuel Poverty** - Mar 2026 – NCMD – [Impact of fuel poverty on children](#)
- 10) **Fatal food-related anaphylaxis** - [Prehospital Care in Fatal Food Anaphylaxis: A Nationally Representative Case Series - Coveney - Clinical & Experimental Allergy - Wiley Online Library](#)
- 11) **Reduce stress** – Via NCMD - Needles & Natter group—open to anyone in CDR who enjoys knitting, sewing, felting, quilting, or any other textile-based craft. With so many of us in CDR often working in isolation, this friendly, low-pressure hour offers a chance to connect with colleagues - ncmd-programme@bristol.ac.uk

Please let us know of newsletter improvements you'd like to see or issues to highlight. Any feedback on any matter, will be looked at, please send it to; panberkshire.cdop@bracknell-forest.gov.uk