



Deciding whether to convene a Child Safeguarding Practice Review or alternative learning review using the new 'Rapid Review' process

Referral

Agencies should inform relevant designated single point of contact for the WSCP ([chair of SCIL Sub-Committee](#)) of any serious incident which they think should be considered for either a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review or a Learning Review by making a written referral.

Rapid Review

When notified about an incident that might be subject of either a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review or Learning Review (pending the replacement of serious case reviews with local child safeguarding practice reviews), the WSCP is required to promptly undertake a Rapid Review of the case.

The Rapid Review must be completed within the timescales outlined in guidance from the national Panel ([this should be within 15 working days of becoming aware of the incident](#)). The practicality of these timescales will be tested. A flow chart setting out the key stages and timescales is included at the end of this section.

Initial Scoping, Information Sharing and the Securing of Records

All agencies who have been involved with the subject child or family will be required to contribute to a Rapid Review. An initial scoping of agencies' intervention will, therefore, need to be completed and other relevant information will need to be rapidly gathered. To support this, a [Template for Initial Scoping and Information Sharing](#) has been created as part of this Practice Guidance along with a sample letter to accompany the template.

The purpose of the initial scoping and information sharing is **to gather the basic facts about the case, including determining the extent of agency involvement with the child and family**. More detailed information will be sought if the Rapid Review concludes the case has the potential to identify national or local learning and a decision is made to recommend a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review, or an alternative Learning Review.

The [Template for Initial Scoping and Information Sharing](#) should be sent out to all relevant agencies **within 2 working days** of receiving the referral, along with an accompanying letter that briefly outlines the referral and explains the purpose of this initial scoping.

Agencies should prioritise completion of the form and return it **within 5 working days**.

All agencies should also secure all records/ files in relation to the case, ensuring they are removed to a secure place where they are not accessible to agency personnel other than through a nominated representative.

Setting the Date of the Rapid Review Meeting

The WSCP will convene an Extraordinary SCIL meeting to undertake the Rapid Review.

The date of the Rapid Review meeting¹ should be set as soon as the Templates for Initial Scoping and Information Sharing have been sent out. The Rapid Review meeting should be scheduled **between 7 and 13 working days** of receiving the referral. This will allow for analysis of the Initial Scoping and Information Sharing to establish the key events in the child's life and inform the Rapid Review whilst also allowing enough time to prepare the necessary documents for the national Panel.

Documentation

The following documents should be shared with all those attending the Rapid Review meeting:

- the completed Serious Incident Referral Form that initiated the process;
- the Local Authority Serious Incident Notification to Ofsted, DfE and the national panel in relation to the incident (if completed);
- copies of the completed Initial Scoping and Information Sharing templates from relevant agencies.

Wherever possible the documentation should be shared with participants in advance of the meeting. However, it is recognised that it may on occasion be necessary to share documentation at the meeting.

The Rapid Review Meeting

The meeting should include representatives from each of the safeguarding partners and any other relevant individuals. It will only be quorate if **at least one representative is present from each of the safeguarding partners** (the CCG, Police and Local Authority).

The Rapid Review meeting should:

- review the facts about the case as presented in the documentation;
- discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately;
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- decide whether to recommend a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review or undertake a local Learning Review. If the decision is not to proceed with a formal Child

¹ Where absolutely essential to meet the required timescales, extraordinary meetings may be held via tele-conference.

Safeguarding Practice Review, the Group will consider whether an alternative form of learning review is appropriate.

The **Rapid Review** should be completed and agreed at this meeting. Whilst the WSCP continue to initiate Learning Reviews, the LSCP Independent Chair should then be asked to consider and endorse the outcome of the Rapid Review: the date this endorsement is obtained should be included on the form.

Sharing the Outcome of the Rapid Review

Within 2 working days of the Rapid Review meeting, the safeguarding partners should send the completed **Rapid Review** report to the National Panel:

(Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk) together with a covering letter, other agencies (including the agency who made the referral) should also be informed of the outcome of the Rapid Review.

Overview of the process to decide whether to convene a Serious Case Review or alternative learning review and the associated timescales.

