



Q&A OVERVIEW

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 gives clear guidance about when a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) should take place.

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children¹

The Children's Partnership in South Gloucestershire holds responsibility for undertaking a review, and are in turn accountable to the National Panel.

Partnerships must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.²

Serious Child Safeguarding Cases are those where a child has died or been seriously harmed and also meet the criteria set out below:

The criteria which the local safeguarding partners must take into account include whether the case⁸³:

- highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate.

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

² Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Is a CSPR the same as a Serious Case Review?

CSPRs were introduced when Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) ended in September 2019. Any review before this time, or that had already started before then was known as a Serious Case Review (SCR)

How does the Partnership get notified about a Serious Incident?

- A referral is made by a professional or a family member – the form for this is on this [webpage](#)
- A partner agency contacts the Head of Safeguarding in South Gloucestershire to inform them of serious harm or death of a child.

What happens next?

- A [Serious Incident Notification](#) Is completed by the local authority
- In South Gloucestershire this responsibility lies with [Catherine Boyce](#), Head of Safeguarding
- This gathers all the known information in one place and must be submitted online within 5 working days of the incident.
- The notification goes directly to the National Panel and is shared with Ofsted and the Department for Education
- The Notification triggers a request for a Rapid Review to begin

What is a Rapid Review?

A Rapid Review is the statutory process that gathers information from all organisations that know the child and their family.

- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- 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 what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review

The Rapid Review must be completed within 15 working days of the Serious Incident Notification, and a recommendation made in a report to the National Panel about whether a CSPR will be commissioned or not.

The National Panel considers the report submitted and responds to ratify the local recommendation or ask further questions. The National Panel also consider whether the information provided should lead to a National Review.

You can read more about the process of a Rapid Review in South Gloucestershire by reading our factsheet.

What Happens in a CSPR?

If a CSPR is agreed as the outcome of the incident and rapid review, this must be completed within 6 months.

There is an expectation that all CSPRs are published.

Often an independent reviewer is commissioned to undertake the review.

The review should be proportionate to the circumstances of the case, focus on potential learning, and establish and explain the reasons why the events occurred as they did.³

A CSPR is about learning and understanding what can be changed and is never about blame or looking for organisations or individuals at fault.

The family and the child themselves, if appropriate, will always be invited to take part in the review.

Practitioners who know the child and family will be included. There is a factsheet about what to expect if you are invited to take part in a review and you can read more about this on the factsheet called Factsheet for Practitioner Events

There is usually a final report about the review and always a learning brief to help share the learning and recommendations identified.

All CSPRs and learning briefs that are published in South Gloucestershire are available on the Children's Partnership website [here](#)

The final report will always be shared with the family and must be sent to the National Panel when it is complete, and prior to publication.

Are there any CSPRs that are not published?

Yes, occasionally it will be decided that the information in the report, even though it is anonymised, makes it easy to identify the child or their family, especially if the child is still living. The Executive will sometimes request that the report is not published and seek agreement to this from the National Panel. Sometimes CSPRs are published on the [NSPCC](#)

³ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Repository without giving information about where in the country the event took place to allow publication without identifying a child.

If I am working with the family and would like to read a copy of the report that was not published how can I do this?

This won't be possible. If a decision is made not to publish then it is not possible to share a copy with anybody for any reason.

If you were working with the family at the time of the incident, you won't be able to see the report either but the Rapid Review author from your organisation should be able to discuss their findings with you. The learning brief will always be available.

What Happens after a CSPR is completed?

The recommendations are formulated into an action plan. This action plan is monitored by the CSPR sub group on behalf of the Executive and the Executive are given quarterly updates on progress. Action plans remain live until they are signed off by the executive as completed.

Learning is shared to all organisations in the form of a learning brief.

Learning is shared with training providers to make sure it is embedded into training.

Bespoke learning events are often held to make sure professionals from all organisations can hear about what happening and reflect on their own practice.

Where can I get more information about CSPRs?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 – Chapter 4 gives all the Statutory Guidance about CSPRs and outlines the whole process.

For local information in South Gloucestershire you can read our process flow chart [here](#)

The Children's Partnership has a CSPR sub group who hold responsibility for oversight of the process in South Gloucestershire – you can contact the chair [here](#)

The Children's Partnership Business Manager manages the process for rapid reviews and CSPRs in South Gloucestershire. You can contact the Business Manager [here](#)

The Children's Partnership Website has a page about CSPRs and this page also is the place that CSPRs are published. You can find the page [here](#)