

Since 2013 there has been a national panel of independent experts to advise LSCBs about the initiation and publication of SCRs. The role of the panel is to support LSCBs in ensuring that appropriate action is taken to learn from serious incidents in all cases where the statutory SCR criteria are met and to ensure that those lessons are shared through publication of final SCR reports. The panel also reports to the Government their views of how the SCR system is working. The panel's remit includes advising LSCBs about:

- application of SCR criteria
- appointment of reviewers
- publication of SCR reports

Serious Case Review Process Flow Chart (Criteria from Working Together Overleaf)



Concerns identified about the way organisations have worked together to safeguard a child from abuse or neglect

Organisation or individual completes Serious Case Review (SCR) Referral form and returns it securely to SGSCB Board Manager

Case is referred to SCR Sub Group for recommendation as to whether the grounds for undertaking a SCR are met

Chair of SCR Sub Group informs Chair of the SGGCB, in writing, of the recommendation that a SCR be undertaken and the appropriate methodology to be applied

SGSCB Chair considers recommendation and informs SCR Sub Group Chair of decision

SGSCB chair should make clear the reasons not to follow the Serious Case Review Sub Group's recommendation. The final decision must be made within one month. Sub group reconvene to meet and discuss with SGSCB chair

If not sub group will consider other learning review

Sub Group recommendation for reviewer is made to the SGSCB Chair and the Director CAH and a final decision made about appointment.

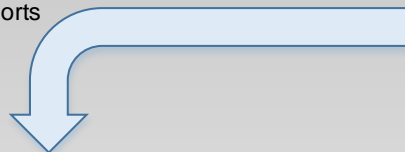
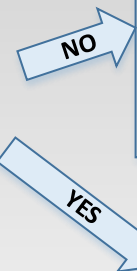
SCR Sub Group Meet to:

1. Agree who should form the Review Team to ensure that key organisations involved in the case are represented by a manager of sufficient seniority.
2. Identify organisations to be included in the Case Team ie the staff and managers who were directly involved in the case and family members.
3. Consider selection of lead reviewers -the list of accredited reviewers held by the national panel of independent experts will be consulted for this purpose as will recommendations from other Local Authorities. Checks will be undertaken to ensure that reviewers have relevant training and experience and references or previous work will be reviewed. The independence from the case of at least one reviewer will be confirmed. The national panel will be informed of the lead reviewers that are appointed

SGSCB Chair also informs referrer, SGSCB members, Director CAH, Ofsted, DfE, National panel

SCR Commences

Decision within 6 weeks of referral



Serious Case Reviews

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of LSCBs. This includes the requirement for LSCBs to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances. Regulation 5(1)(e) and (2) set out an LSCB's function in relation to serious case reviews, namely:

5(1)(e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case is one where:

(a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and

(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.