

## **Serious Incident Notifications to National Safeguarding Panel for a Rapid Review. Process. October 2024**

Working Together 2023 outlines three key stages in the process of learning from serious incidents

1. Serious Incident Notification to the Panel (shared with Ofsted and the DfE)
2. Rapid Review
3. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

### **Notifications to the National Panel**

Under the Children Act 2004, if a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or (b) while normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

Where an agency other than the local authority becomes aware of an incident that appears to meet the criteria for notification, they should discuss this with their local authority counterparts to reach an agreement on whether to notify.

Discussion between safeguarding partners about cases and the decision to notify is crucial. Where agreement cannot be reached through dialogue between the safeguarding partners alone, the local disputes resolution process or the support of appointed independent scrutineers is encouraged to help resolve differences.

#### **Additional Considerations:**

- It is recognised that it is sometimes only through the rapid review that a judgement can be made about the strength of the relationship between the serious harm and abuse or neglect.
- The Panel has observed inconsistencies in what is reported as a serious incident particularly in cases that involve looked after children, cases of neglect, sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI), suicides, and in cases of extra-familial harm. Use the CSPR Panel Guidance to navigate

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1108887/Child\\_Safeguarding\\_Practice\\_Review\\_panel\\_guidance\\_for\\_safeguarding\\_partners.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1108887/Child_Safeguarding_Practice_Review_panel_guidance_for_safeguarding_partners.pdf)

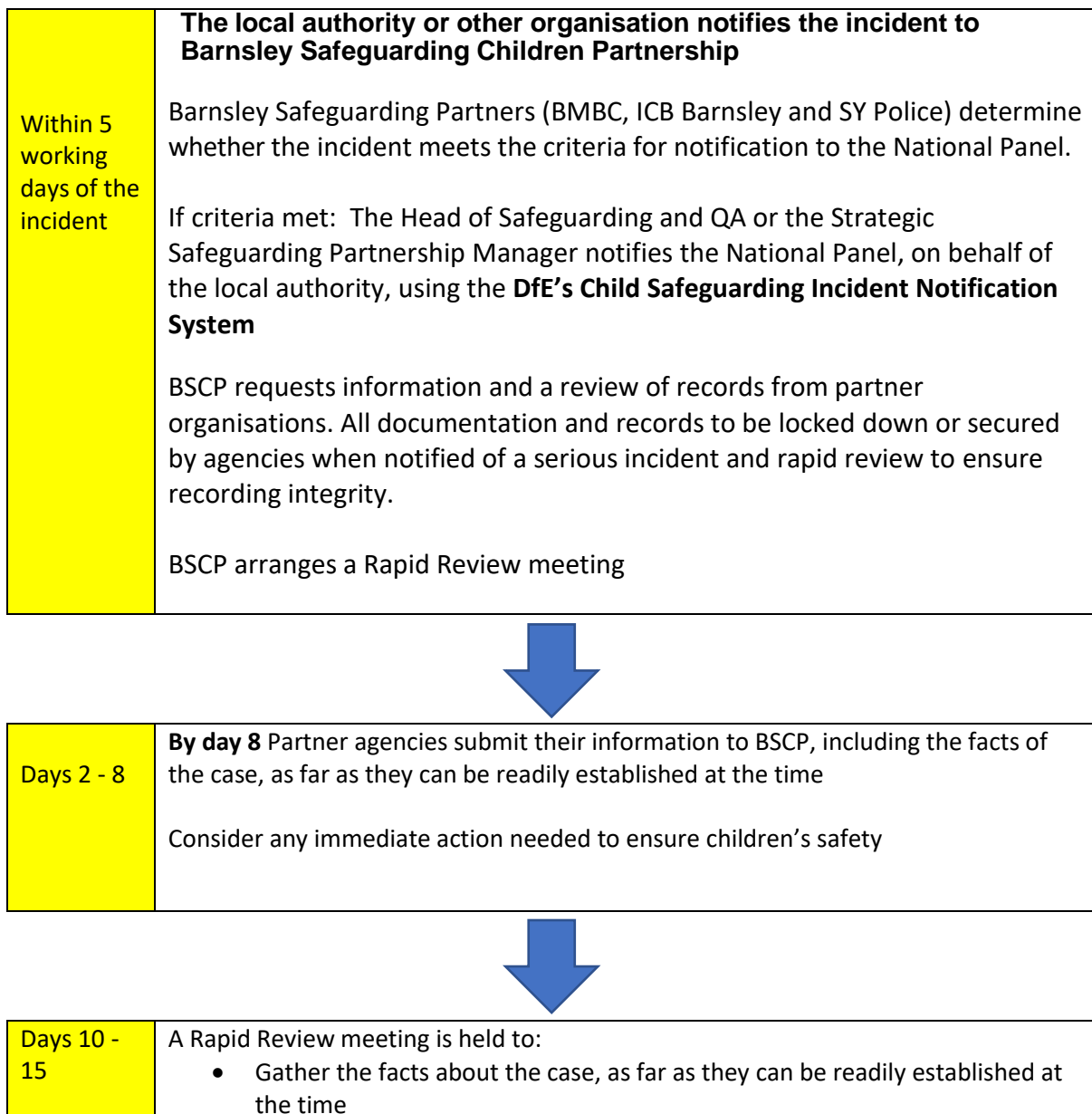
### **The aim of the Notification and Rapid Review Process is to enable safeguarding partners to promptly undertake a rapid review on all notified serious incidents.**

- Rapid reviews should identify, collate, and reflect on the facts of the case as quickly as possible, to establish whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure a child's safety and the potential for practice learning
- For safeguarding partners, the rapid review should conclude with a decision about whether an LCSPR should be commissioned using the criteria set out in Working Together 2023
- If the decision is to commission an LCSPR, the key lines of enquiry and the questions that are to be answered by the review process should be set out in the conclusion to the rapid review
- Good practice is where partnerships identify what has been learnt and how this

- learning will be disseminated and acted on across the local partnership.
- Senior representatives of the three safeguarding partners should sign-off the rapid review.
  - Where a rapid review has already identified relevant learning and there does not appear to be any scope for further learning to be gained through an LCSPR, the safeguarding partners should outline how learning already identified will be disseminated and acted on, or how the learning outcomes have been achieved.
  - This should be clearly expressed in the rapid review and an appropriate action plan developed.

## Notification and Rapid Review Timeline

### Serious Child Safeguarding Incident is flagged



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety</li> <li>• Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</li> <li>• Share learning appropriately</li> <li>• Establish any parallel processes</li> <li>• Decide what steps they should take next, including whether to recommend the BSCP undertake a local or national child safeguarding practice review</li> </ul>
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Day 15	<p>The LCSPR Chair communicates the outcomes of the rapid review meeting to the three safeguarding partners and using the BSCP Rapid Review template, sends it to the National CSPR Panel, at <a href="mailto:Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk">Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk</a>. Signed by the three safeguarding partners.</p> <p>If there are extenuating reasons why the rapid review cannot be completed within 15 working days, please notify the Secretariat <a href="mailto:NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk">NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk</a>.</p>
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Day 16 - 30	<p>The National Panels’ response is received by BSCP with any follow up questions which will be shared and considered by the LCSPR subgroup, safeguarding partners and the Independent Scrutineer</p>
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Completed Rapid Review	<p>The completed Rapid Review is submitted to the National Panel and published on the BSCP website</p>
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For guidance on the process for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews see below.

Supporting documents for further guidance including Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

National CSPR Panel Guidance September 2022 : [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Working Together 2023. Chap 5. Learning from serious child safeguarding incidents

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf)