

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board - At a Glance Guide



Commissioning Serious Case Reviews – guidance note for practitioners

When must a Serious Case Review be commissioned?

[Working Together \(2015\)](#) provides guidance as to when a Serious Case Review should be commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. A SCR must be triggered when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and either a) the child has died or b) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which professionals have worked together to safeguard the child.

Who makes the decision whether to commission a SCR in Gloucestershire?

Working Together (2015) gives the responsibility for making the decision as to whether the circumstances of an incident (either a death or serious harm to a child) meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. In Gloucestershire, this is done following consideration by the Case Review Sub-Group.

What to do if you want the GSCB to consider undertaking a Serious Case Review

A large number of Serious Case Reviews are commissioned following a child death, and in these situations a number of multi-agency meetings are held as part of the [child death review process](#). Where appropriate, these meetings will make a recommendation to the Case Review Sub-Group. Where a child has suffered serious harm, any professional can ask the GSCB (via the safeguarding lead within their agency and then the Case Review Sub-Group) to consider whether a Serious Case Review should be commissioned.

Following a discussion by the safeguarding lead with senior managers within a single agency, or a multi-agency meeting where there is general agreement to ask for a Serious Case Review to be considered, the [case for consideration](#) template should be completed with as much information as possible and sent through to the GSCB Business Manager.

The GSCB Business Manager, in discussion with the Chair will agree how to proceed. This will be by either convening an urgent meeting or waiting until the next planned meeting of the Case Review Sub-Group. In the meantime, the relevant agencies will be asked to provide a written summary of any involvement with the child and/or their immediate family by staff within their own organisations or contracted services. They will also be asked to give their comments, based on the information which they had so far, as to whether there should be a full SCR or a review of practice in another form.

These reports will be examined and discussed by the Case Review Sub-Group before making a recommendation to the GSCB Chair as to whether a SCR should be commissioned or not.

Process for Requesting a Serious Case Review

