

Report of the Director of Public Health to the meeting of Wellbeing Board to be held on 28 November 2023

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Subject:

Bradford Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report, 2021-22 to 2022-23

Summary statement:

The Bradford Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) annual report gives an overview of all deaths reviewed by the CDOP in the years 2021-22 and 2022-23, describes some of the actions undertaken by the partnership to reduce the risk of future deaths, and makes recommendations for further action.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The report focuses on risk factors for child death, and on how to reduce these. The recommendations aim to reduce inequalities that exist in the district for individuals, families and communities.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

The death of a child is a profoundly devastating event which affects parents, siblings, and communities. The Bradford Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) treats every death reviewed with respect and compassion, and this report is dedicated to all families, friends and loved ones of the children and young people in this report.

The Child Death Overview Panel is a multi-agency group brought together to systematically review all deaths in children and young people from birth up to the age of 18 years to understand how and why children die in the district. In particular, the CDOP looks for factors contributing to a child's death that may have been modifiable, and where shared learning could reduce the chances of a recurrence of the circumstances around that death. This report gives an overview of all deaths reviewed by the CDOP in the years 2021-22 and 2022-23, describes some of the actions undertaken by the partnership to reduce the risk of future deaths, and makes recommendations for further action.

2. BACKGROUND

The Bradford CDOP was first established in 2008 by the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), to meet national statutory requirements. Guidance for CDOP panels is provided by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Education and is based on statutory guidance set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children". The Bradford CDOP service is jointly funded by CBMDC and WY ICB (Bradford District and Craven place).

The report covers: introduction to CDOP and the processes followed, outline of the demographics of children and young people in Bradford, demographics of children and young people reviewed by Bradford CDOP in the reporting period, causes of death, risk factors, and modifiable factors related to child deaths in Bradford, local actions over the past year to reduce the risk of child death, and recommendations for the future.

The last annual report was presented to Wellbeing Board in June 2022.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Please refer to the full report in background documents.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

No issues identified.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

This report will be presented to and discussed at several Boards and meetings across the partnership to consider learning and actions that can be taken from the annual CDOP paper. The report aims to support decision-makers in their role in understanding the risks and needs of babies, children, young people and families in Bradford district when making decisions and commissioning services.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

No issues identified.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No direct implications.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No direct implications.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Please see the full report in background documents.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Please see the full report in background documents.

7.5 TRADE UNION

No direct implications.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The report references differences in the risk of child death among different communities in Bradford District. Due to suppression of numbers below 5, individual wards are not discussed. However, it is recognised that there are a number of factors such as experiencing poverty and multi-faceted inequalities that can increase the risk of child death. Please see the full report in background documents for further details.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

Not applicable.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

The report has implications for corporate parenting, as the recommendations describe system-wide activity to reduce the risk of death among children and young people in Bradford. Please see the full report in background documents for further details.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

No issues arising. No personally identifiable data is included in the report. All numbers

below 5 have been suppressed.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Wellbeing Board members are invited to comment on and endorse the paper and recommendations below.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below, and the full paper set out as a background document, are applicable to a wide range of policy-makers, decision-makers, commissioners and services in Bradford. They will be of particular interest to those working with babies, children and young people, but the implications should be considered by all partners working in Bradford district.

Board members are invited to review the recommendations and to reflect on how they may be able to contribute to their delivery.

Environmental risk factors:

1. Services and planners of services should work together to ensure that families with children have opportunities to access all the financial assistance they are eligible for.
2. Ensure that women have good access to pre-conception health advice. This should not be limited to women seeking medical advice, but should be available to all women, regardless of pregnancy status.

Service provision:

3. Ensure that children and families in more socioeconomically deprived parts of Bradford have good access to services including maternity, health visiting, school nursing, social care, and education. This may include considerations of timing, location and transport to services, and of the language, both written and spoken, used to communicate messages and information to families.
4. Continue, learn from, and expand on the current work to increase cultural competency of the maternity and children & young people's workforce, with the aim to ensure that children and families from ethnic minority backgrounds have equitable access to culturally competent services.
5. Services and organisations must work to identify needs of children and families, and to refer to appropriate services as needed. Strong partnership working and referral pathways between services will be key to this.

6. CDOP must ensure strong partnerships with the Bradford Children's Trust and with the Safeguarding Partnership, and that the bodies are sighted on the findings and recommendations set out in this report.

Individual risk factors:

7. Work through schools, colleges and communities to educate children and young people on safety messages should be undertaken. This may include information on swimming safely, road safety, drug and alcohol messaging, and general hazard awareness.
8. Links should be strengthened between the suicide prevention board and the CDOP panel.
9. Continue the work on genetic literacy and culturally competent service provision through the Every Baby Matters steering group.
10. Promote universal messaging for all new parents on safe sleep. This should be consistent across services and professionals to ensure that advice is the same, whoever is delivering it.
11. Provide advice for parents on safety in and outside of the home.

Process:

12. The terms of reference and operation of CDOP should be regularly reviewed to guarantee continual quality improvement of the process, and to ensure that the meeting continues to model best practice.

11. APPENDICES

Bradford Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2021-22 to 2022-23

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

CDOP Annual Report presentation (accessible via online agenda page)