

**REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING BOARD**

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**Date of Meeting:** 3 November 2016

**Subject:** **INFORMATION REPORT – Child  
Death Overview Panel Annual  
Report 2015**

**Responsible Officer:** Dr Andrew Howe  
Director of Public Health  
Harrow Council

**Exempt:** No

**Wards affected:** All

**Enclosures:** CDOP Annual Report

**Section 1 – Summary**

[This report summarises the work of the child death overview panel in 2015.](#)

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **What is CDOP?**

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a subcommittee of the Harrow Safeguarding Children's Board. The overall aim of the CDOP is to learn lessons from all child deaths with the hope of avoiding further similar causes of deaths if possible. The CDOP reviews all child deaths under 18 years. The Panel considers information about every child that dies in the area and the circumstances of their death. This sometimes takes a while to get all the relevant information and so the numbers seen in the Panel may not correspond with the number of deaths occurring in that year.

### **The 2015 report**

In 2015, four CDOP panels were held and 18 cases were reviewed. As in previous years the numbers are small and so it is not possible to determine any patterns or trends. 56% of deaths were in male children and the highest numbers were seen in the Indian, other Asian and White groups which matches the numbers of births in Harrow.

The majority of deaths were expected with the largest numbers being due to perinatal or neonatal events, usually associated with prematurity or with genetic or congenital abnormalities.

Three cases were of note in 2015: One death due to deliberate harm/abuse; one due to suicide/self-inflicted injury and one due to sudden unexpected death in infancy. The former two were subjects of serious care reviews. The SUDI case was the first to occur in Harrow for the past 5 years. It prompted the panel to request action on this point. Harrow Public Health team organised "Safer Sleep" training for early years providers including child-minders and nurseries in the private, voluntary and independent sector. This was delivered by the Lullaby Trust.

### **Future of CDOP**

The future of the CDOP is starting to be discussed across London in the light of the recommendations of the Wood Report. The issues of small numbers and inconsistencies in interpretation of terminology across panels has been highlighted and the report recommends that "child deaths need to be reviewed over a population size that gives a sufficient number of deaths to be analysed for patterns, themes and trends of death." It also recommends that there be a national database to capture and analyse data.

Another recommendation of the Wood report is that the responsibility for CDOP moves from Department for Education to Department of Health. This will have implications for the way serious case reviews are undertaken and for the role of health and wellbeing boards and the JSNA in the child death review process.

### **Section 3 – Further Information**

An annual report for 2016 will be presented at Health and Wellbeing Board in 2017. Further information will be provided on the implications of the Wood report when they are available.

### **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

This report does not have any specific recommendations with financial implications and funding for the CDOP Coordinator post is included within the staffing budget for the joint Public Health team.

In light of the financial challenges across the health and social care economy in Harrow, any future recommended actions will need to be delivered within existing budgetary provision on an ongoing basis. The annual budget process will determine the level of available funding in future financial periods and any proposals reflected in future commissioning intentions.

### **Section 5 - Equalities implications**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No  
Numbers of deaths are too small to make any meaningful conclusions or recommendations regarding equalities.

### **Section 6 – Council Priorities**

The Council's vision:

#### **Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow**

The report supports the council's vision with regards to:

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for families

### **STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

#### **(Council and Joint Reports)**

Name: Donna Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 10 October 2016.		

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO</b>
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## **Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Carole Furlong, Consultant in Public Health, 020 8420 9508

**Background Papers:** None