

Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the Pan-Lancashire CDOP newsletter. This newsletter has been designed to raise awareness of current issues and themes identified in CDOP meetings and to also provide information on current and future campaigns.

Safer Sleep

Did you
know?

In the UK in 2015- 214 babies died of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SIDS) and over the past year pan-Lancashire CDOP reviewed 10 deaths where safer sleep was a factor. Whilst SIDS is rare steps can be taken to minimise the risks:

1. Keep baby away from smoke, before and after birth.
2. Put baby in a cot, crib or Moses basket to sleep-never fall asleep with them on a sofa or chair
3. Never fall asleep with baby after drinking or taking drugs/medication
4. Put baby to sleep on their back with their feet to the foot of the cot
5. Keep baby's head and face uncovered and make sure they don't get too hot
6. Breastfeed your baby-support is available if you need it

To assist agencies with these discussions CDOP provides materials that are given to families through the antenatal and postnatal periods such as booklets, thermometers and cot cards. For further information please click [here](#) or use the contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

A timeline of when and what materials are handed out is currently being updated and will be circulated shortly...make sure to look out for it!



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Raising awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning is important any time of the year. However, it is especially important in winter months. Many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning are caused by faulty or un-serviced appliances.

Pan-Lancashire CDOP reviewed a case where a faulty appliance caused the death of a child and this was due to the appliance not being serviced.

The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) provides the following advice:

Carbon monoxide can be given off by all fossil fuels.

You need to look out for:

- Boiler pilot light flames burning orange, instead of blue
- Sooty stains on or near appliances
- Excessive condensation in the room
- Coal or wood fires that burn slowly or go out
- Families suffering prolonged flu-like symptoms.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can include:

- A tension type headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Tiredness and confusion
- Stomach pain
- Shortness of breath

For further information:

[NHS website.](#)

[RoSPA](#)

<https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/>

High Temperatures in Children



With the winter months approaching we can expect to see an increase in childhood illnesses such as coughs, colds, sore throats, flu, and vomiting bugs. Fever is a common symptom of these and other childhood illnesses with up to 60% of parents of children between 6 months and 5 years reporting that their child has had a high temperature. As a general rule, in children under five, a fever is considered to be a temperature of 38C (100.4F) or above.

Feverish illness is a concern for parents, it is the most likely reason for a child to be taken to the doctor and the second most common reason for a child being admitted to hospital. With the right advice, such as the safe use of antipyretics, how to identify and prevent dehydration, how to look for signs of more serious illness, and regular checks through the day and night, most children with fever can be cared for at home. However, it is also important to recognise that fever can be a sign of more serious illnesses in babies and children such as meningitis, urinary tract infection, pneumonia and sepsis.

As professionals it is important that we inform parents to seek medical advice if:

- The baby is under three months old and they have a temperature of 38C (101F) or higher
- The baby is three to six months old and has a temperature of 39C (102F) or higher
- They think their child may be dehydrated
- The child develops a red rash that doesn't fade when a glass is rolled over it
- The child has a fit (convulsion)
- The child is crying constantly and you can't console or distract them, or the cry doesn't sound like their normal cry
- Has a high-pitched or unusual sound when crying
- The fever lasts for more than five days
- The child's health is getting worse
- They have any concerns about looking after their child at home

For further information:

[NICE Fever in under 5s: assessment and initial management](#)

[NHS Choices Treating a fever in children](#)

Useful links

[Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board](#)

[Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children Board](#)

[Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Contact details

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CDOP moved to the online database in January 2017. All Form A notifications and Form Bs are now requested and completed through the online database 'eCDOP'. Excellent progress has been made with positive feedback from colleagues. A special '**thank you**' goes out to all our agency contacts that have worked with us during this time, in particular to the community teams including the safeguarding teams, health visitors and school nurses. Form Bs are being returned well within timescale and are of high quality. A good practice Form B and a general FAQ document for frequent questions about the database will be circulated to users over the coming weeks.

As a reminder, to notify CDOP of a death please use the following link:

[Form A](#)

Any questions can be sent to the CDOP team at the bottom of the newsletter.



Do you have any ideas or suggestions for future newsletters? We'd love to hear them. Please send them to contact details below.