

## Child LO Serious Case Review (SCR) Learning Brief

This SCR was in response to a 16-month-old toddler who died in unsafe sleeping conditions.

Children's  
**Safeguarding Assurance**  
Partnership

Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire

Mum had presented to maternity services late in her first pregnancy at 15 weeks' gestation. Throughout the pregnancy and up until Child LO being 12 months old mother and father lived together before ending their relationship. Not long after the split father raised neglect concerns to Children's Social Care and mother alleged domestic abuse to police. Mother met a new partner and she and Child LO moved in with new partner who lived in a caravan, shortly after the health visitor undertook visit on the basis of concerns about domestic abuse. Health professionals were unaware father was pursuing contact with 2-year-old child from a previous relationship – this was contested by child's mother due to alleged drug dealing and domestic abuse. Child LO attended 3 different private nursery provisions from 8 months - leaving once arrears of fees accumulated. Mother, partner, and child moved to a second caravan which was in a poor state with no cot available, at this point Child LO attended nursery 3 half days per week. Child LO was reported to be a happy toddler meeting developmental milestones. The review identified learning and made recommendations in respect of the following areas of practice:

### Unsafe Sleeping Arrangements for babies and toddlers

- The importance of antenatal home visits to promote professional relationships to create understanding about the family structure and living arrangements to better identify families who may require Early Help following the birth.
- Practitioners should fully implement the safer sleep guidance, which includes seeing where the baby sleeps during the day and night to better assess quality of equipment and arrangements used to promote safer sleeping practices.
- Prevention of accidental deaths in toddlers. The Healthy Child Programme should include assessment of living conditions and sleeping arrangements to recognise when Early Help is required.

Safer sleep guidance and materials can be found [here](#)

### Early Years multiagency working and information sharing

- Midwifery and health visiting records should include details of previous children to provide context and trigger further assessment where concerns emerge.
- CAFCASS and Children's Social Care should proactively share information where there are safeguarding concerns in Private Law cases.
- Health staff based in MASH are essential to promote information sharing with front line health staff
- Relevance of debt and nappy rash management as indicators of possible family stress
- The importance of strong links between Health Visiting Services and Nurseries.
- The need for nurseries to record details of fathers and father figures, including dates and reasons for changes

### Good Practice

- The Health Visitor made an opportunistic visit to Child LO's family home following concerns raised by father and the PVP
- A Police Officer's welfare check of the flat was of good quality and included a good assessment of Child LO's sleeping environment which was satisfactory at the time
- Communication between Police and Children's Social Care was good and well documented

### Multiagency response to Domestic Abuse

- Routine enquiry is essential to recognise domestic abuse during pregnancy and beyond
- The [SafeLives checklist](#) should be completed following allegations of Domestic Abuse and included in family and child risk assessment
- Records should include details of new partners and any contact arrangements
- The importance of remaining child focused

Read the full Child LO SCR report [here](#).