



**Report from: Pan – Lancashire CDOP**

**Date: August 2014**

**Subject: Pan – Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report**

**Purpose: for information, discussion and decision**

### **Summary:**

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a multi agency group responsible for reviewing all child deaths occurring within Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. The Panel is a sub group of the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).

The deaths of all live-born children 0-18 (excluding infants live-born following planned, legal terminations of pregnancy or still births), are reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013). This report will provide information in relation to trends and patterns from deaths reviewed and identify recommendations for the LSCBs or other relevant bodies to prevent future child deaths where possible.

Key points to note are:

From April 2008 – March 2014 the CDOP has completed 770 child death reviews consisting of 68 Blackpool, 121 Blackburn with Darwen and 578 Lancashire. Of these deaths:

- 23% of pan-Lancashire deaths had modifiable factors (24% Lancashire, 17% Blackburn with Darwen, 25% Blackpool and 22% national)
- Nationally 72% of cases are completed within 12 months; 80% of pan-Lancashire deaths have been completed within 12 months of the deaths occurring between April 2008 and March 2014 (79% Lancashire, 88% Blackburn with Darwen and 72% Blackpool)
- 63% of pan-Lancashire deaths reviewed are of children under 1 year of age (62% Lancashire, 66% Blackburn with Darwen and 63% Blackpool) this is slightly below the national figure of 66%
- 59% of pan-Lancashire deaths were of male children and young people (56% national, 60% Lancashire, 59% Blackburn with Darwen, and 47% Blackpool)
- The largest categories of pan-Lancashire child deaths are perinatal/ neonatal event (34.2%), chromosomal, congenital and genetic abnormalities (24.5%) and sudden unexpected, unexplained deaths (8.7%)
- Sudden unexpected, unexplained deaths are particularly noticeable in children aged 28-364 days old. Examples of modifiable factors in this category relate to safer sleep.
- The largest category of death with modifiable factors in Blackpool is sudden unexpected, unexplained deaths (41%), perinatal/ neonatal event in Blackburn with Darwen (48%) and perinatal/ neonatal event Lancashire (23 %)
- The categories of death with the largest proportion of modifiable factors (pan-Lancashire) were Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect (89%), Trauma and other external factors (63%), Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm (52%), and Sudden unexpected, unexplained death (52%)
- The most common risk factors identified from the pan-Lancashire cases identified to

have modifiable factors are:

1. 35% service provision (including access to health care, prior medical intervention e.g. misdiagnosis or missed testing etc , communication e.g. cross boundary issues, interagency communication or internal issues and/or access to other services e.g. housing)
2. 31% smoking (includes smoking in pregnancy and in the household by parent or carer)
3. 31% alcohol/ substance misuse by parent, carer and/ or child

## **Recommendations**

- Health visiting providers (Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals Trusts) to provide assurances to their LSCB that safer sleep information is discussed with parents/ carers at the antenatal and primary contacts
- Given the frequency in the numbers of deaths caused as a result of own actions, the Health and Wellbeing Boards should assure themselves that there is evidence-based and effective early intervention/ preventive work for emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people
- Public Health teams to develop a set of recommendations based on more detailed analysis of historical data collected by CDOP (including the modifiable factors identified by CDOP) and any other relevant sources.
- The LSCBs & Health and Wellbeing Boards should seek assurances that there is effective interagency working to address the misuse of alcohol and substances and smoking cessation