

Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Review Process – Frontline Overview

Understanding frontline roles in
responding to serious child
safeguarding incidents



Purpose of this briefing



Learning from Serious Incidents

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership are responsible for reviewing serious child safeguarding incidents.

We have detailed guidance for this work [available here](#).

This briefing is for frontline practitioners to summarise the process and your role, and signpost detailed information as needed.

Purpose of Reviewing Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents



Learning from Serious Incidents

Reviews help agencies learn from serious incidents affecting children, to improve future safeguarding practices.

Non-Blame Approach

The review processes focus on understanding actions and systems, not on assigning blame to individuals or organisations.

Supporting Reflective Practice

Reviews encourage reflection to recognise strengths and areas for improvement, leading to meaningful change. The review provides a 'window' on the system, by sharing each individual and agencies' information we can explore how to make improvements together.

When Is an Incident Considered Serious?



Definition of Serious Incident

Serious incidents involve child death or serious harm with known/suspected abuse or neglect.

Nature of Serious Harm

Serious harm may not be immediate or permanent but includes lasting impacts on physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, or social wellbeing.

Role of Professional Judgement

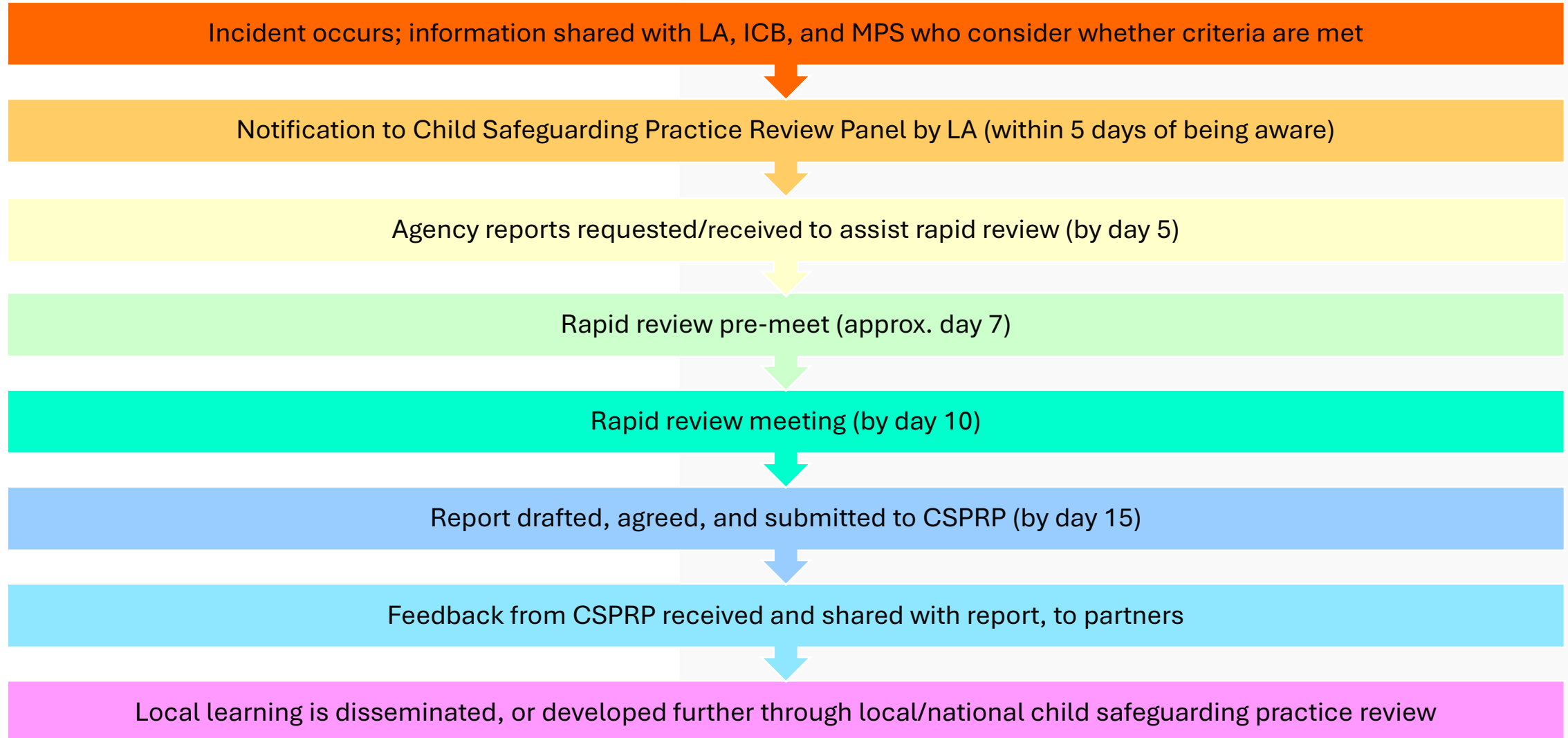
Practitioners must apply professional judgement to assess if harm could have lasting effects, even if uncertain at the time.

Importance of Prompt Information Sharing

Timely identification and escalation of potentially notifiable incidents enables effective safeguarding response and collective decision-making among partners.

See pages 1-3 of our local guidance for more information.

Serious incident overview



Your Role as a Frontline Practitioner



- Timely Recognition and Reporting
 - Practitioners must recognise incidents promptly and make statutory partners aware if they may be notifiable (*see pages 2-3 of our local guidance*).
- Active Participation in Reviews
 - Contributing to agency reports, meetings, and analysis is essential during rapid reviews.
- Reflective and Insightful Contributions
 - High-quality contributions include reflection on decisions, risks, information sharing, and family engagement.
- Highlighting Strengths and Challenges
 - Practitioners provide balanced insight by noting strengths and challenges in safeguarding practice.

Step 1 – Notification of a Serious Incident



Formal Notification Process

Notification is the initial formal step when a serious child safeguarding incident is identified, ensuring timely response.

Legal Duty and Timeline

Local authorities must notify the child safeguarding practice review panel within five working days of becoming aware of the incident.

Role of Frontline Practitioners

Frontline practitioners provide critical information enabling awareness of potentially notifiable incidents, and accurate and timely information to be included in any notifications.

Prompt Escalation and Communication

Clear communication and escalation ensure immediate safeguarding and maximise learning opportunities from incidents.

Step 2 – The Rapid Review



Purpose of Rapid Review

The rapid review gathers case facts, considers safeguarding actions, identifies learning, and decides next steps within 15 working days.

Agency Report Submission

Frontline staff should contribute to structured agency reports, including safeguarding chronologies, submitted within five working days. These should be quality assured by a senior lead.

Multi-Agency Collaboration

Statutory partners hold a pre-meeting to review available information and decide key lines of enquiry and attendees for the review meeting.

A rapid review meeting convenes multiple agencies to share information and agree on safeguarding actions focused on improving child outcomes.

Importance of Preparation and Reflection

Practitioners' preparation, honesty, and reflective thinking ensure the review is meaningful and improves safeguarding outcomes for children.

See pages 3-6 and appendices 2 -4 of our local guidance.

Step 3 – Decision Making After the Rapid Review



No Further Review Needed

If sufficient learning is identified, partners agree on and monitor an action plan without further review.

Local Child Safeguarding Review

Partners commission a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review when significant local learning opportunities exist.

National Review Consideration

Complex or nationally important cases may be escalated for a national review led by the review panel.

Collaborative Transparent Decisions

Decisions are made collaboratively with clear rationale focusing on the value of additional learning.

Implementing Practice Improvements

Engage in applying agreed changes such as updated procedures, training, and enhanced communication to improve safeguarding children practice, is vital.

Step 4 – Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews



Purpose of LCSPRs

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews explore how local systems and practices operated in specific cases to improve child protection.

Systems-Based Methodology

LCSPRs use systems-based approaches to understand professional decision-making in context, avoiding hindsight bias.

Child and Family Involvement

The reviews emphasise the child's lived experience and involve families when appropriate to gain deeper insights.

Timely and Actionable Learning

Reviews are completed within six months, sharing learning progressively to produce clear recommendations that improve child outcomes.

See pages 6-9 and appendices

To find out more



To explore local and national learning in more detail please visit:

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/learning/>

<https://childsafeguarding.independent-panel.uk/>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews>

And sign up for our training sharing learning - KRSCP: Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice <https://afclearningportal.co.uk/>