

In this issue:

- ◆ Introducing Jacky Wood
- ◆ Parental Responsibility
- ◆ Water Safety
- ◆ Congratulations My Wish Charity
- ◆ Regional Learning from Children's Death's sessions success
- ◆ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome



This year we are looking back with appreciation for all those who have supported our team and worked with us to support our families who have lost a child.

We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year!

Suffolk Child Death Review Team

Dr Sarah Steel - Designated Doctor for Child Death Suffolk

Cindie Dunkling - Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Lead for Child Death

Jacky Wood – CDR Nurse

Bernie Spiller – CDR Nurse

Lucy Lavender - CDR Nurse

Team Contact Details

Team phone number: 01473 770089

Team pager: 07623 951892

Email: iesccg.suffolkdir@nhs.net



Learning from Children's Deaths

A newsletter for professionals December 2020, Volume 1 Issue 4

CDR Nurse - Jacky Wood - Bio

Hello I'm Jacky (Jacquelyn). I completed my degree in nursing 15 years ago in Birmingham and my first job was as a registered nurse at the Birmingham's Women's Hospital. I later moved to Suffolk where I worked as a staff nurse for the Thurston and Stanton Health Visiting team, at the end of my first year I was luckily enough to be seconded to complete my Specialist Community Public Health Nursing in Health Visiting at Masters level. After 5 years as a Health Visitor. I joined the MASH as a specialist Safeguarding Nurse where I worked until I started this role as a CDR nurse. Over the years I have also taken on additional roles working as a clinical advisor for 111 and as a Forensic Nurse for the SARC. I have loved all my nursing roles and feel passionate about making a positive difference to patients and families. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into my new role and for everyone's continued commitment to the Child Death Review Process.



(d) brothers and sisters of the whole blood and the issue of any deceased brother or sister of the whole blood who died before the deceased;

(e) brothers and sisters of the half blood and the issue of any deceased brother or sister of the half blood who died before the deceased;

(f) grandparents;

(g) uncles and aunts of the whole blood and the issue of any deceased uncle or aunt of the whole blood who died before the deceased;

(h) uncles and aunts of the half blood and the issue of any deceased uncle or aunt of the half blood who died before the deceased

This highlights the importance of gaining both



Parental Responsibility

Following a recent case where there was animosity between parents and father had been prevented from seeing his children. We were led to ask the question what are mother's and father's rights following the death of their child when they both have parental responsibility. In this particular case, mother was reluctant for us to contact father, to inform him of the death and would not facilitate providing contact details. However, the police had more authority on this and proceeded to contact father. Father was also obstructed from seeing his daughter and completing memory making. It is also worthy to note that Funeral Homes, are frequently led by the "client", also known as the bill payer and in this case it was not someone with parental responsibility. So, in this situation the "client" was authorising who could visit the child.

In order that we can accurately give advice and ensure that the legal and ethical needs of parents are met we sought legal advice. Non-contentious Probate Rules 1987, Rule 22 (1)c sets out that the order of priority of those who have a beneficial interest in the estate and who shall be entitled to a grant of administration:-

(a) the surviving husband or wife;

(b) the children of the deceased and the issue of any deceased child who died before the deceased;

(c) the father and mother of the deceased;

Teaching

Do you want to learn more?



The CDR team are keen to educate professionals in Suffolk about the Child Death Review Process, the Child Death Overview Panel and what to do when a child dies. We are hoping to become part of organised study days in trusts and organisations in 2021, so that staff will know about our role and what we do, and also to discuss the learning which is coming from children's deaths. If you would like us to be part of your teaching session or study day, please contact us at :

iesccg.suffolkdir@nhs.net

These sessions are a great opportunity for us to talk to staff about particular cases and families which they may have had involvement in.

Click [here](#) to view the latest CDOP newsletter for families.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please click [here](#) to sign up.

Learning From Children's Deaths

The learning from children's deaths sessions ran from 12th to 16th October and we had 986 participants join us over the week. Each session was based on a theme that had come from the learning from our eastern region Child Death Overview Panels. We have added the links here for each session we have been permitted to share. This new virtual platform did present us with some challenges but the outcome was very positive and far more accessible to professionals than the physical event originally planned for June. We would like to thank all those who took part in the sessions our speakers, the participants and the team behind the 'screens' who all made this the success it was. It is hoped to repeat this virtual learning event in the autumn of 2021

Sessions included :

SIDS—Where is baby sleeping?

Neonatal Deaths

Information sharing

The Post Mortem

Bereavement

Rare Condition's

Advanced Care Planning

Impact of Covid 19

Professional Curiosity

NCMD

Please click [here](#) for the sessions available on the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership website :-



Happy 25th Birthday to My WISH charity based at the West Suffolk Hospital. They have supported the CDR team from the beginning, by generously paying for some resources which we use to support siblings who are grieving the loss of a brother or sister. These resources are a very important part of how we carry out our role supporting families following the death of a child. Sue Smith, head of fundraising at My WISH Charity said "It is a pleasure to support the child death review team. Their work is so important and if we can provide these things to help parents and siblings at such a difficult time then that's just fantastic and exactly the reason why we are here".



Sudden Infant Death Syndrome – Safer Sleep



As we head towards winter and the festive season it's important the advice we give to parents on safe sleeping reflects our learning from deaths and the possibility of heightened risks over the coming months. In the last 7 cases where a baby has died of SIDS 5 occurred when parents stepped outside of their normal safe sleeping routine. Babies who normally slept in a safe cot or Moses basket on their backs were placed in the bed or sofa with the parents. Parents who normally would not drink and share a bed with their baby may be tempted to over the festive period, just through sheer tiredness. Professionals can help parents think ahead about when they may break from their usual routine and how to remember to check the basic SIDS safety advice. Please see more [here](#)

Water Safety

The Child Death Review team have been involved in some recent cases where families have lost a child through drowning accidents. This has highlighted the need for more learning and safety around swimming pools, ponds, paddling pools, rivers and going to the beach. Approximately 700 people die each year in the UK in drowning accidents. On average 5 under 6's die every year in garden ponds.

In many countries around the world there are laws governing swimming pools and ponds or water features in gardens. However, this is not the case in the UK. There are no laws in the UK regarding residential swimming pools, nor is planning permission required. Also, there is no law to support any safety devices around swimming pools, ponds or water features like fences, covers, alarms or barriers.

In France, there is specific legislation around swimming pools and safety and people are handed out enforced fines if they do not have the correct safety device in place. Young children are often inquisitive, and it takes a split second for them to get into trouble around water. If there were laws supporting safety around water in the UK adults would be more aware and responsible and ensure safety measures were in place. Interestingly, people who work around water are protected in law by the health and safety executive.

Good information around water safety available [here](#).



CDR TEAM COVER

Further to the meeting on the 1st October, we have been working on a solution to provide an interim response to any unexpected child deaths in the Waveney area. The Suffolk Child Death Review team have kindly offered to respond to any unexpected child deaths in Waveney on behalf of the Norfolk & Waveney CCG.

With immediate effect in the event of an unexpected child death in Waveney please contact:

**Team phone number: 01473 770089
Team pager: 07623 951892**

Please note: Over the Christmas and New Year holidays the CDR team will not be available during normal hours—they will return calls and emails on the next available working day.