

# DCFP SERIOUS CASE REVIEW REFERRALS

## Introduction

This pathway is for use by all agencies when there is a child death or serious injury **and** the working together arrangements have caused concern according to:

### Working Together 2015

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of LSCBs. This includes the requirement for LSCBs to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances. Regulation 5(1)(e) and (2) set out an LSCB's function in relation to serious case reviews, namely:

5(1)(e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case is one where:

(a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and

(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

17. "Seriously harmed" in the context of paragraph 18 below and regulation 5(2)(b)(ii) above includes, but is not limited to, cases where the child has sustained, as a result of abuse or neglect, any or all of the following:

a potentially life-threatening injury;

serious and/or likely long-term impairment of physical or mental health or physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

This pathway should **only** be used when the all other avenues for resolving multi-agency working together arrangements have been exhausted and undertaking some sort of review will be beneficial to improving practice.

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**Referral** in to DCFP for death or serious harm (where neglect or abuse is thought to be a factor)  
\*If referral is by Serious Incident Notification (SIN); DCFP Business Unit inform National Panel

