



Child Death Overview Panel Newsletter



What is CDOP?

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a sub-group of the 3 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) of Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton. It has had a statutory function since April 2008.



The panel meets 6 weekly to review **all** child deaths (0-18) and share lessons learnt to prevent future deaths. There is one CDOP for Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton.

The panel is chaired by the Director of Public Health for Luton. Other panel members include the CDOP Manager, Lead Paediatricians, public health representatives from Luton & Bedfordshire, Police, Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children in Luton & Bedfordshire, representatives from social care, LSCB Business Managers, Child Death Review Nurse (Luton) and a lay representative.

How Does CDOP Affect my Role?

You will be invited to an Information Sharing meeting if a child known to your service dies unexpectedly.

This is part of the rapid response process. It is a multi-agency professionals meeting & you will be asked to share any information you possess on the deceased child & family members.

Any potential safeguarding concerns for other children in the family will be considered

You will be asked to complete & return a 'Form B' (data collection form) for all child deaths known to your service (expected & unexpected deaths)

By attending a CDOP training session you will gain insight into the local emerging themes and how to integrate them into your practice.

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What is an Unexpected Child Death?



An unexpected death is one that was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example 24 hours before the death or where there was a similarly unexpected collapse or incident leading or precipitating the events which led to the death.

All unexpected deaths are reported to

the Coroner who may order a post mortem & conduct an inquest.

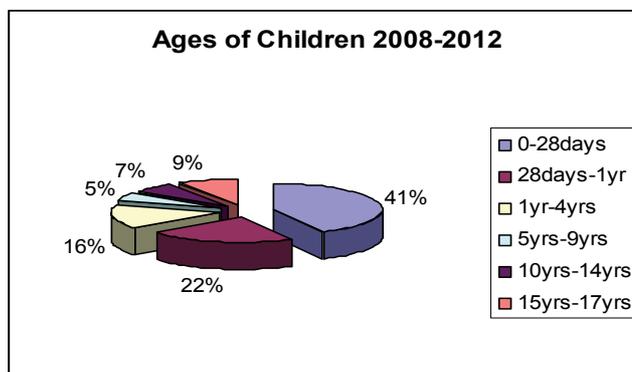
The police are involved in all unexpected deaths & have to consider if there is anything suspicious about the circumstances of the child's death. However in the majority of cases the cause of death is 'natural causes'

Child Death Data April 2008– March 2012

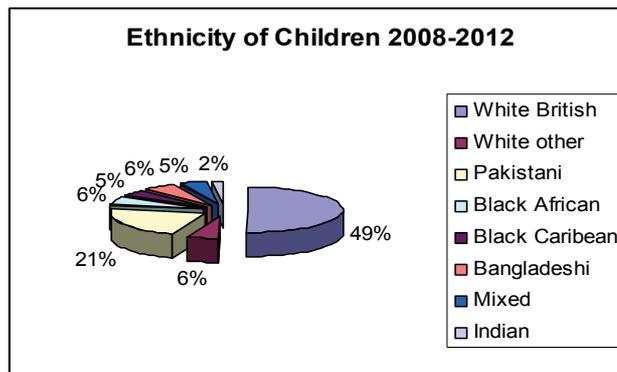
63% of all child deaths from April 2008– March 2012 were of children aged less than one year old

243 children have died

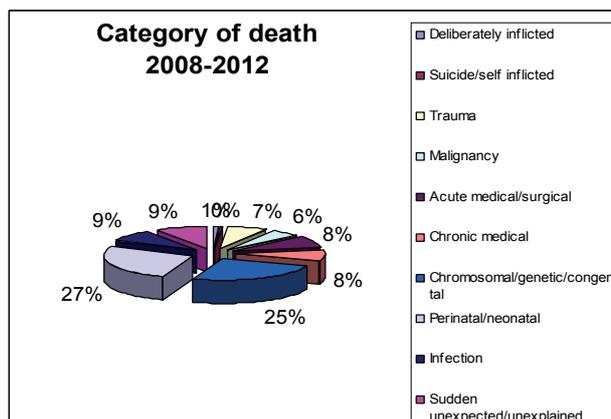
- 32% of these were unexpected deaths
- 41% occurred in the neonatal period
- 63% were aged less than 1 year old



- 49% of the children were White British
- 21% were Pakistani ethnicity

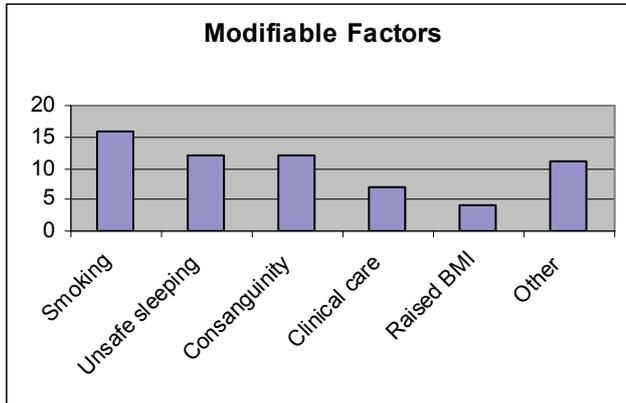


- 27% of the deaths were classified as a perinatal/neonatal event
- 25% were due to chromosomal, genetic or congenital anomaly



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What Are Modifiable Factors in Relation to Child Deaths?



The panel reviews each child's death to identify if any modifiable factors were present. A modifiable factor is defined as identified factor/factors, which may have contributed to the death of the child and which, by means of locally or nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths.



Maternal obesity
Pregnant women with a Body Mass Index of >30 are at increased risk of obstetric complications including stillbirth & pre-term delivery

Modifiable Factors identified in deaths from April 2008– March 2012

Smoking (maternal/parental)	16
Unsafe sleeping practices	12
Consanguinity (1st/2nd cousin marriages)	12
Clinical care	7
Raised maternal BMI	4
Other(factors associated with driving, prescribing practice, equipment)	11

In some cases more than 1 modifiable factor was identified



Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Almost 10% of deaths reviewed by CDOP since April 2008 have been categorised as SIDS

Age range- 10 days to 8 months

80% of these deaths identified all or some of the following modifiable factors:

- **unsafe sleeping practices**
- parental smoking
- alcohol or drug use

What are Unsafe Sleeping Practices?

Unsafe sleeping is when national guidance on reducing the risk of SIDS for babies is not adhered to. The key points for a **safe sleeping environment** are:

- **Sleeping 'Feet to Foot'** in

their own cot

Sleeping on their back

Sleeping in their parent's bedroom until the age of 6 months

Not sleeping on sofas or alone in adult beds

Room temperature to be 16-20°C

Remove hazards from cot. Eg. Pillows, cot bumpers

Adults should not share a bed with their baby if it was premature, of low birth weight (<2.5kg), if they have been drinking alcohol, smoking, or taken medication which may make them drowsy

See *FSID website for further information*

Public Health Messages

Work is on going with Public Health in Luton & Bedfordshire to ensure front-line health care professionals are aware of the CDOP findings & are able to deliver consistent messages to parents & carers on the risk factors associated with SIDS



Smoking

The Foundation for Sudden Infant Death (FSID) estimate if all women stopped smoking in pregnancy the rate of sudden unexpected deaths in babies would drop by 50%



Bedfordshire & Luton CDOP

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Annual CDOP Report
www.bedfordshire.org.uk
www.lutonlscb.org

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00305-2010>

Foundation for Sudden Infant Death
<http://fsid.org.uk/>

CDOP Training Sessions

CDOP Training sessions are available for all health & social care professionals to provide more detailed information on the process & your role in the event of a child death. Flyers will be sent out early in 2013

To book a place in Luton please contact Anita Wilson (Lead Nurse- Child Death Reviews)- anita.wilson@ccs.nhs.uk or 01582 707480

To book a place in Bedfordshire please contact Shirley Whiterod- see contact details above

Luton Sessions to be held at: Redgrave Gardens Children's Centre Time: 14.30-16.30	Bedford Sessions to be held at: Elstow Medical Centre Time: 12.00-14.00
14 th March 2013	18 th February 2013
6 th June 2013	20 th May 2013
12 th September 2013	16 th September 2013
11 th December 2013	16 th December 2013

