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**Protocol for Conducting**

**Joint Statutory Reviews**

**Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board**

**Bexley SHIELD Safeguarding Children’s Partnership**

**Bexley Community Safety Partnership Board**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this Protocol is set out how partners will effectively co-operate when there is a potential overlap between the three main statutory review processes linked to safeguarding and community safety:

* Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR).
* Domestic Homicide Review (DHR).
* Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).
1. **Definitions**

2.1 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)

[[1]](#footnote-1)The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at local level with Bexley SHIELD Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.

Locally, SHIELD must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

* abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected **and**
* the child has died or been seriously harmed.

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious **and/or** long-term impairment of a child’s mental health or intellectual, emotional, social, or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.

2.2 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

The Bexley Community Safety Partnership Board (CSPB) holds a statutory duty to commissions and oversees DHR’s locally through referrals to the Home Office for consideration.

[[2]](#footnote-2)Domestic Homicide Review means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by:

1. a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or
2. a member of the same household as himself,

held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

The Purpose of a DHR is to:

1. Establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
2. Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result.
3. Apply these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate.
4. Prevent domestic abuse and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic abuse and abuse victims and their children by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity.
5. Contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic abuse and abuse.
6. Highlight good practice.

[Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) | London Borough of Bexley](https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/community-safety-and-environment/bexley-community-safety-partnership/domestic-homicide-reviews#:~:text=Domestic%20Homicide%20Reviews%20(DHRs))

2.3 Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

[[3]](#footnote-3)The Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) must arrange a SAR when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

The BSAB must also arrange a SAR if an adult in its area has not died, but the BSAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. In the context of SARs, something can be considered serious abuse or neglect where, for example the individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention or has suffered permanent harm or has reduced capacity or quality of life (whether because of physical or psychological effects) as a result of the abuse or neglect. The BSAB is free to arrange for a SAR in any other situations involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support.

[This process is led by Bexley SAB directly, more information on the SAR Protocol can be found here.](https://www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com/protecting-adults/safeguarding-adult-review-learning-5-2/)

1. **Information Sharing and Joint Decision Making**

It is important to ensure that there is appropriate information sharing between the partnerships when a notification is received that meets the criteria for more than one of the three statutory review processes.

The existing Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) that are in place in the three strategic partnerships already allow for the lawful exchange of information in discharging the statutory duties linked to these review processes, and as such no new agreement is required in relation to this Protocol. However, care must be used to ensure that information shared across the partnerships strictly follows the Caldicott Principles and guidelines set out in the relevant ISA.

Where this situation arises then the Chair/Strategic Lead(s) of the relevant strategic groups will meet to decide if a review should be co-joined, and if so, which process will take the lead or precedence.

Similarly, if there is any specific overlap between a distinct DHR, LCSPR or SAR case, then the Chair/Strategic Lead(s) should also meet to decide how one should link or refer to another.

A decision on these factors should be made as soon as is practicable, following the guidelines and timescales set out within the relevant statutory guidance.

If a single review is commissioned to combine statutory processes or one is determined to take precedence, the panel or group overseeing this must be sufficiently representative to provide a robust and thorough understanding of all the distinct elements.

The final joint report must also be agreed by the Chair/Strategic Lead(s) of the relevant partnerships.

1. **Referrals From One Partnership to Another**

Practitioners within the relevant Subgroups and Panels of the CSPB, BSAB and LCSPR must also remain vigilant to any potential grounds to refer a case if they come across any circumstance that meets the relevant criteria set out in Section 2.

*4.1 Referrals to the CSPB -*

CSPB members will subsequently be notified and asked to confirm they agree the criteria has been met to conduct a DHR under Section 9 of the Domestic abuse Crime and Victims Act 2004.

When there is an identified link between an adult or child (e.g., a care-experienced adult that was known to the Local Authority as a child); the relevant safeguarding/strategic lead must make contact with the BSAB Practice Review & Learning Manager and the Strategic Safeguarding Lead to discuss a possible referral, if any circumstances meet the relevant criteria outlined in Section 2.

The BSAB Business manager and the LSCP Strategic Safeguarding Lead will confer and give advice on making referrals across the two safeguarding partnerships. This may include attendance at a relevant panel or sub-group meeting to assist in decision-making.

*4.2 Referrals to the LSCP –*

Upon decision to submit a **Referral of a Serious Incident Form** relating to a child, this must be completed as soon as possible after the serious incident occurs.See here: Bexley Local CSPR Practice Guidance 2022.

* 1. *Referrals to BSAB –*

The [**SAR Notification Form**](https://forms.office.com/e/f6FSWtfG0j) and guidance on this webpage should be followed in relation to adults.

1. **Analysis and Learning Themes**

The Chairs/Strategic Lead of the three strategic partnerships will also meet throughout the year along with the LBB Chief Executive, and other senior managers, to analyse trends in local statutory reviews and discuss joint learning themes. This is known as the Joint Bexley Partnership Executive Meeting.

The learning where it crosses over more than 1 area, for example, Domestic abuse including vulnerable adults will be shared at the Bexley Multi-Agency Learning Forum (MALF): Terms of Reference.

This may lead to work on joint projects which will help to prevent violent incidents, and abuse and neglect in the borough.

1. **Action Plans and Accountability**

The oversight for Review Action Plans will be the responsibility of the lead Board. For example, Safeguarding Adult Review Action Plans will be overseen by the Bexley SAB. Where there are actions for varying services within LB of Bexley, the oversight for ensuring the actions are completed is the respective Board representative from that service areas. For example, if the action is referring to Children’s Services, then the Director of Children’s Services will be responsible for ensuring the actions are completed and updated back to the respective board.

1. **Review Pathways**

Death or Serious Incident

Notification to BSAB

Notification to Children’s

Notification to Community Safety Partnership Board

BSAB sends Scoping and Rapid Review Form to Partners (this includes CSPB and SHIELD) **AND** Serious Incident Notification (SIN) raised with ASC. Where there are concerns about which Board should lead the Review a Joint Partnership Executive meeting should be called immediately to agree next steps.

If a homicide, MPS will hold a Gold Group Meeting and complete the Bexley DHR Toolkit Notification sent to DASV Strategy Manager.

If DA related death completes Toolkit.

BCSP sends scoping to relevant agencies and holds an extraordinary BCSP Board Meeting within to decide if criteria meet.

For more information on the Domestic Homicide Review Pathway –

[Domestic-homicide-review-toolkit-16022022 (bexley.gov.uk)](https://www.bexley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Domestic-homicide-review-toolkit-16022022.pdf)

Or email DHR@bexley.gov.uk

If case is open, MASH will alert SW and discuss next steps on whether Serious Incident Notification (SIN) form is needed.

The SIN is sent to Professional Standards inbox.

If the National Panel criterion is met, then, SHIELD will be notified to raise to the National Panel for consideration and then convene a Rapid Review.

Use the National Panel is for under 18’s only.

For more information on Children’s Review Pathways –

[www.bexleysafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/news-publications/learning-reviews/](https://lbbexley-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anita_eader_bexley_gov_uk/Documents/Desktop/www.bexleysafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/news-publications/learning-reviews/) or email shield@bexley.gov.uk

Discussed at SAR Subgroup Decision-Making Meeting (if Children’s, Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery links will be requested to attend).

Once decision-made, actions will be shared and respective services are required to participate in the Review, set actions, share learning, and respond to BSAB requests for oversight.

For more information on the BSAB SAR Protocols –

[www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com](https://lbbexley-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anita_eader_bexley_gov_uk/Documents/Desktop/www.safeguardingadultsinbexley.com)

or email bsab@bexley.gov.uk

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Where any 2 or more Boards have learning with the same themes and features or completed a review together then this must present at the Multi-Agency Learning Forum (MALF) Co-chaired by SHIELD, CST and BSAB.

1. [Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance - England](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120062/child-death-review-statutory-and-operational-guidance-england.pdf)  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575273/DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf)  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Care Act 2014 - Care and Support Statutory Guidance (last updated Jan 2023)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)