

Issue: 14
January 2017

CDOP Newsletter

CDOP is a subgroup of the 6 LSCBs of Berkshire

[CDOP Training Day March 2017|Meet the Panel|CDOP National Conference|Serious Case Review—Home Educated Child|Pokemon Go]

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) started in 2008 and meets quarterly to review all child deaths and share lessons learnt to prevent further deaths. The panel consists of representatives from all six Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Berkshire, i.e. health, the police, coroners, social care and the voluntary sector. We analyse all child deaths in Berkshire and make recommendations to prevent deaths in the future and include helpful tips to prevent child death. This is the fourteenth newsletter for frontline staff.

SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES—TRAINING DAY

****REMINDER** LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE!**



CDOP Training Day 01 March 2017—FREE EVENT - LUNCH INCLUDED - AT BRACKNELL OPEN LEARNING CENTRE

Berkshire CDOP is pleased to announce that there will be a multi-agency all day complimentary training day on **Wednesday 1st of March 2017** at Bracknell Open Learning Centre. Please make a note in your diary.

Our guest speaker is Dr Peter Sidebotham based at the University of Warwick.

He is a lead authority on child health including child death and runs the Warwick Training Programme in Unexpected Child Deaths.

We are finalising how the day will run and will confirm the schedule of events nearer the time.

Meet the Panel—Dr Geetha Veerasamy

Designated Doctor for Child Death, Berkshire East

Dr Geetha Veerasamy has recently taken over the role of Designated Doctor for Child Death, Berk-



shire East from Dr John Connell. She has trained in India and the UK, mostly in Scotland.

As well as her CDOP duties, Geetha is a Consultant Community Paediatrician and has been for the last two years working out of Upton Hospital, Slough. She finds her role stimulating and challenging.

COMING UP—National Network of CDOPs 3rd Annual Conference

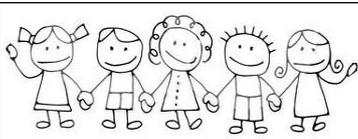
PREVENTING NEONATAL & PAEDIATRIC DEATHS

At the Tally Ho Conference Centre, Birmingham 17th February 2017 (9am – 5pm). There is a packed programme.

Berkshire will be presenting an abstract entitled “Innovative Quality Improvement Response to Asthma Deaths Cluster” led by Dr Sabina Shaik, Slough CCG GP Lead for Paediatrics.

Guest Lectures will be given by Professor Peter Fleming, University of Bristol: Making Children safer: Combining evidence-based practice with practice-based evidence and

Police Investigation of Unexpected Childhood Death by Dr John Fox, Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth.



Do you have any ideas or suggestions for future issues of the Berkshire CDOP Newsletter? If so, we'd like to hear them, contact:

lorna.tunstall@slough.gov.uk

Learning from Serious Case Review—Home Educated Child, Mid and West Wales July 2016—CYSUR2/2015

NSPCC

This is regarding a serious case review published in 2016 and detailed on the NSPCC website.

“Death of an 8-year-old boy in December 2011. Post-mortem found he had been suffering from gross anaemia, dental abnormalities and soft tissue haemorrhage in the lower legs. He had not received medical treatment. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decided not to prosecute the parents and an inquest reached a verdict of open conclusion”.

Background: the child had no direct contact with health, education or child care after being immunised aged 13 months. His parents declined his 3 year developmental check and were home educating both their children. Family had a history of: mother’s deteriorating mental health; father’s poor health and combined role as a home educator and carer for his wife and children; longstanding litigation claims against mother’s former employer; reclusive lifestyle; and lack of engagement with agencies.

Learning: always consider children’s needs when a parent has a mental health problem; share knowledge and experience with other agencies as part of a holistic family assessment.

Recommendations: Welsh Government to consider changing legislation to require parents to register children receiving home education with the local authority on an annual basis and to ensure the children are seen and spoken to and their wishes recorded annually.

For the full report go to www.nspcc.org.uk/

Pokémon Go: This ‘augmented reality’ game in which players find, collect and trade virtual creatures in real places using the GPS and camera on a mobile phone is popular and fun for children to play outside, but comes with risks, as highlighted by the NSPCC. To stay safe with children when playing Pokémon Go parents are advised to:



- Play the game with younger children, and advise older children about the risks of meeting strangers face-to-face and of losing track of where they are going and ending up somewhere unsafe, either by mistake or because they have been lured there.
- Establish where they will be playing and encourage children to stay with friends.
- Encourage children to take a spare battery pack so they don’t find themselves lost and unable to contact an adult.
- See here for further information from the NSPCC. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/pokemon-go-parents-guide/>

Quotes of the day

"Children are our most valuable resource."

— Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States

"A person's a person, no matter how small."

— Dr. Seuss