

Health and Wellbeing Board Paper

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership: Thematic Reviews of Adolescent Suicide and Serious Cases
Related Health and Wellbeing Priority:	Supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people in Surrey and Commissioning Priorities
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Related papers	Annex 1 – Thematic Review - Deaths of Children and Young People through probable suicide 2014-2020 Annex 2 – Thematic Review - Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) 2016-2020 – Briefing Paper

2. Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to advise the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) of the findings arising from two important thematic reviews carried out over the last 12 months by the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP). The report seeks to gain the support of the Board to achieve a robust multi-agency response in addressing the specific findings, enable development of practice and influence commissioning priorities.

3. Recommendations

The SSCP is concerned to ensure that local arrangements for commissioning and delivery of services and practice can be influence by the findings arising from these important thematic reports.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is being asked to:

- Reflect and comment on the findings from the Thematic reports on Adolescent Suicide (Deaths of Children and Young People through probable suicide 2014-2020) and Serious Cases (Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) 2016-2020 – Briefing Paper);
- Commit to working with the SSCP to ensure a robust multi-agency response to findings;

- Ensure that commissioning arrangements for future service provision take full account of the findings;
- Support the SSCP in reviewing practice development through training and multi-agency audits over the next 24 months.

4. Reason for Recommendations

These recommendations are important because they will ensure learning from the experience of the children and families who have been the subject of these reviews is shared and that as a safeguarding system we are able to demonstrate systemic improvements in the quality of our work with children and families as a result.

5. Detail

Thematic Review - Deaths of Children and Young People through probable suicide 2014-2020 (Annex 1) analyses the deaths of 12 children between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2020. These met the case definition for the thematic review of probable suicide. This represents a 100% increase since the previous 6-year reporting period (1st April 2009 - 31st March 2014). 9 of the children and young people were male (75%) and 3 were female (25%). 5 (42%) were aged 10-14 years. The Review was commissioned because most cases involving suspected suicide would not be subject to a Serious Case Review (SCR). However SSCP took the view that every child's death is a tragedy with a need to work in partnership to consider the evidence surrounding each of these deaths. SSCP is committed to implement system wide improvements based on best practice to help prevent future child deaths.

The review included experts in adolescent vulnerability from Kingston University.

Thematic Review - Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) 2016-2020 – Briefing Paper (Annex 2) analysed and summarised the learning from 13 SCRs and other reviews of children who either died or were seriously harmed in Surrey. The themes from these reviews include Professional Curiosity, Disguised Compliance, Multiple referrals and re-referrals, understanding and assessing Parental Capacity, authoritative practice, being attentive to the lived experience of the child. This briefing is essential learning for the development of effective multi-agency safeguarding practice.

The Thematic Reviews on Adolescent Suicide and SCRs present us with a significant opportunity to learn from the experiences of children and families from a significant number of cases over a period of more than 5 years. It is important that we use what we have learned from these two thematic reviews to continue to drive system-wide improvements in the quality of safeguarding practice across all agencies in Surrey.

6. How is this being communicated?

Please see below under next steps.

7. Next steps

The SSCP has commissioned a range of quadrant-based webinars to be delivered in autumn 2020.

In addition, the SSCP is working on a Surrey-wide conference to share the learning from these two reviews.

The SSCP will also produce a range of 7-minute briefings to support system wide dissemination of the learning from these thematic reviews.

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