

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Newsletter

March 2017

As identified within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015', CDOPs are required to review all child deaths, within the borough. Any highlighted learning from these reviews, along with regional and national initiative findings should be shared widely with Practitioners.

Information detailed within this newsletter is to any share lessons, and raise awareness of issues linked to child deaths.

National Issues:

Self-asphyxial behaviour (Choking Game)

The University of Bristol recently wrote to all CDOPs and Health Professionals to raise awareness of Self-asphyxial behaviour (SAB) also known as the "Choking Game".

SAB is a self-strangulation or strangulation by another person to achieve a brief euphoric state, undertaken by children and adolescents.

Deaths have been reported in 10 Countries so far. No research has been undertaken in UK so far, however the University are raising awareness of the characteristics of SAB as these could also be reported as strangulation, hanging or suffocation.

Window Blind Cords

Internal window blinds can pose a big risk to babies and small children. Public Health

Agency in Northern Ireland recently produced a safety video that can be shared with practitioners and parents. The video can be accessed from [here](#)

Choking hazards

There have been a few reported incidents nationally where children have died whilst eating grapes.

The size and shape of the grape means that they can completely plug a child's airway. Due to the smooth surface of the grape, this creates a tight seal in the child's throat making it difficult to dislodge.

Doctors are reminding Practitioners, Parents and Carers to cut grapes lengthways, and even in quarters, before giving these to a young child.

Car Seats

"Making the Link" in association with the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), released guidance around Car Seats and their correct use.

With changes that have come in recently, the correct use of car seats for Parents, Carers and Practitioners can be confusing. Additional information can be sourced from: <http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice/keeping-your-child-safe-car> and <http://www.makingthelink.net/news/12-01-17/advising-families-car-seat-safety>

Button Batteries

Button batteries pose a deadly risk to toddlers. Parents and Carers should be reminded to keep these batteries out of the reach of children.

Lithium batteries react with saliva so that they leak acid within as little as an hour. If a child swallows a battery it can cause severe trauma, such as burning a hole in their throat or stomach or further damage to other internal organs, or even death.

Medical advice should be sought as soon as possible

Local Issues:

Safe Sleeping

Barking and Dagenham CDOP continues to promote Safe Sleeping for babies.

Around 250 babies and toddlers still die every year of Sudden unexplained death in infancy (SUDI) in the UK.

There is no advice that guarantees the prevention of SUDI deaths but parents should be informed that by following the safer sleep advice, it is possible to significantly lower the chance of this tragedy occurring.

The Lullaby Trust continue to work with families and professionals to raise awareness of this issue. The advice is that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep. More information can be found at <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep>

Sepsis

The UK Sepsis Trust estimates that 37,000 people die of severe sepsis each year.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs.

Sepsis can affect anyone at any time but it does tend to strike more often people at the extremes of life, the very old and the very young. Children, particularly premature babies and infants, can be more susceptible to developing sepsis.

What are the early signs and symptoms of sepsis?

- Flu-like illness, chest infection
- Fever, hypothermia (very low body temperature), or seizures
- Eating, drinking, sucking poorly, or vomiting
- Fast or slow heart rate
- Pale or discoloured skin
- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Urinating very little or not at all
- Weakness, irritability, drowsiness, and harder to wake than normal
- Localised muscle tenderness, severe muscle aches

Medical advice should be sought as soon as possible.

For more information on Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) please refer to the Barking and Dagenham LSCB website – www.bardag-lscb.co.uk