**Rapid Reviews**

**Statutory Criteria and Process**

**What is serious harm?**

Serious harm is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

*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.*

It is worth noting that child perpetrators may also be the subject of a review, if the above criteria is met.

**Statutory Criteria**

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out the requirement for safeguarding partners to make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The criteria for such cases are:

* Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected **and**
* The child has died or been **seriously harmed**

**What happens when a referral is submitted?**

The *Key Partners* of the RBSCP make a decision on how to proceed with the referral. If the criteria is met a Rapid Review will be arranged.

Partner agencies are then asked to provide a summary of involvement with the child and/or family.

If a referral does not meet criteria for a Rapid Review the referrer will be informed.

**Do you think a case meets criteria for a Rapid Review?**

The referral form for a Rapid Review can be accessed via <https://www.rbscp.org/professionals/rapid-reviews/>

Completed referral forms should be sent to RBSB.admin@rochdale.gov.uk within 5 working days of the incident/death

**What happens during a Rapid Review?**

During a Rapid Review, agencies who have had involvement with the child/family will meet together. The key aims of a Rapid Review are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:

* gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established
* discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately
* consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
* decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review

In Rochdale, a reflective methodology is used, with a focus on identifying learning. Good practice is also highlighted. An action plan is completed at the end of the meeting.

**What happens after a Rapid Review?**

The Rapid Review will conclude with a decision about whether or not a local child safeguarding practice review should be commissioned.

The RBSCP will then share the Rapid Review report with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel who provide their opinion on the decision made.

If a decision is made to progress with a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, an independent author will be commissioned and agencies involved in the Rapid Review will be asked to engage in the Practice Review.

If a decision is made **not** to progress with a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, actions agreed in the Rapid Review are monitored to ensure completion.

If you have any questions about Rapid Reviews, please contact the Safeguarding Children Partnership via 01706 927 700 or RBSB.admin@rochdale.gov.uk

Further general information about Rapid Reviews and the role of the Partnership is set out in:

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf)

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: practice guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793253/Practice_guidance_v_2.1.pdf)