**CDOP Briefing Paper 11: November 2017**

This paper captures points of interest that have arisen via communications from within the National CDOP Network since our last CDOP meeting in September 2017:

**National Consultation – Working Together 2018 and Child Death Review Statutory Guidance**

National consultation on the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the new guidance for Child Death Reviews has now commenced and copies of the relevant documents were distributed by the CDOP Officer to all panel members on Friday 3 November 2017. The national consultation period runs until 31 December 2017.

**Sharing Good Practice Event (Sussex, Surrey and Kent) – 1 November 2017**

This was an inaugural event put on by Surrey CDOP, which proved to be well attended by Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, B&H, Kent, Medway and Sutton CDOPs. Presentations were given by; Dr Peter Sidebotham (which looked at the epidemiology about child deaths nationally and provided a summary of the proposed future changes for CDOPs ) and Dr Tim Fookes, GP and CYP Clinical Lead for Coastal West Sussex CCG (looking at Acute Care Pathways – preventing future deaths).

A presentation was also given by Susan Koffler, Local Specialist for the South East, National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network during which she introduced the group to **Fingertips** <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-overview/data> an on-line PH data source that provides area /regional and UK data on a wide range of measures and which shows where our own area (West Sussex) is performing well against the UK average or performing below average (with a positive or negative trend data). Could this be a useful data source for us to consult as a Panel?

The slides from the event are to be distributed shortly.

**National CDOP Conference for 2018 – Update**

The date for the National CDOP Conference for 2018 has now been changed to will run over two days on **Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th May 2018** at the Tally Ho Conference Centre in Birmingham. The first day will commence at 12.00 and will be based on a World Cafe approach to identify issues for CDOPs and seek solutions / sharing learning within targeted workshops. The second day will be structured around guest speakers and Good Practice presentations. Baroness Kennedy will be attending and speaking on the second day.

**Baby sleep positioners dropped by shops after deaths warning**

News Item from 6 October 2017: Some UK retailers have stopped selling baby sleep positioners amid concerns over their safety. A US health regulator said they "can cause suffocation that can lead to death" and have been linked to 12 infant deaths in the US. The positioners, aimed at infants under six months, are intended to keep a baby in a specific position while sleeping. Mothercare, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco have stopped selling them, but they are still available from other retailers.

'Don't take chances' The Lullaby Trust said there is no need to use any type of equipment or rolled up blankets to keep a baby in one position, unless parents have been advised to do so by a health professional for a specific medical condition. It added: "Babies are at higher risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) if they have their heads covered, and some items added to a cot may increase the risk of head-covering and can also increase the risk of accidents. "We recommend that while evidence on individual products is not widely available, parents do not take any chances and stick to scientifically proven safer sleep guidelines". The charity has published a checklist to help new parents.

**Request to participate in Warwick Medical School Survey**

We have received a request from Dr Joanna Garstang (Consultant Community Paediatrician / Honorary Associate Clinical Professor) to participate in a survey that is being run from Warwick Medical School with Dr Peter Sidebotham, looking at how CDOPs classify causes of death and risk factors for unexpected infant deaths. This survey will help demonstrate current English practice and help produce guidance to standardise procedures. The survey involves CDOPs reviewing three fictitious cases and hopefully should not take more than 40 minutes of our time. An information leaflet containing more details about the survey has been sent out with this briefing paper. If we would like to participate we have been asked to complete and return a consent form.

**Safe in School Campaign - News Item**

An article in Chichester Observer (2/11/17) reported that a West Sussex Mum has travelled to Westminster as part of a 100 strong group organised by the Health Conditions in School Alliance to call for school policies to be reviewed to make sure that children with long term medical conditions such as; epilepsy, diabetes and asthma are included safely in all aspects of school life. Faye said “It’s not right that parents are having to constantly fight so that their children have the same basic rights as their peers who do not have a medical condition, like being safe in School, and having the opportunity to thrive in and out of the classroom”

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Maggie Pugh, CDOP Officer

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