

Useful contacts

Support and resources for bereaved parents and families:

The Child Bereavement Trust Helpline:

0800 02 888 40 (office hours)
www.childbereavement.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends

Dedicated to the support of bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents.

Helpline: **0345 123 2304**
Office 0345 120 3785 (9.30 - 4.30 Mon to Fri)
www.tcf.org.uk

Cruse (Bereavement Care)

Support and free counselling for bereaved people

Helpline: **0808 808 1677**
www.cruse.org.uk

The Lullaby Trust

Bereavement support helpline following death of a baby or young toddler

Helpline: **0808 802 6868**
(10.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri, 6.00pm-10.00pm weekends)
www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

Helpline: **020 7436 5881**
www.uk-sands.org

Useful contacts

Support for bereaved children and those supporting them

Child Bereavement Charity

Support and Information **0800 02 888 40**
Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 17:00pm
www.childbereavementuk.org

Grief Encounter

Helpline **020 8371 8455**
Monday to Thursday 9:00am -17:00pm
<http://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>

Winston's Wish

Helpline: **08452 03 04 05**
A national helpline offering support, information and guidance to all those caring for a child or young person who has been bereaved
Monday to Friday 9:00am -17:00pm, also
Wednesday 19:00-21.30pm
www.winstonswish.org.uk

When a Child Dies

Information for parents and carers about the Child Death Overview Process



Introduction

We would like to express our sincere condolences at this sad time. Talking and thinking about a child's death is a sensitive and painful subject. We understand that this can be particularly upsetting for parents, families and carers. This leaflet explains some of the things that have to happen after your child has died. It also provides a list of organisations that you might find useful.

Since 2008 the Government legally requires each local authority to review every child death under the age of 18 years. This is called the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). The more that we understand about why your child died, the more we can help to prevent the deaths of other children in the future.

There are two types of death: Expected and Unexpected.

An expected death follows on from a period of illness or long standing medical condition that has been identified as terminal and where active prevention is not possible.

An unexpected death is defined as one which was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example, 24 hours before the death; or where there was an unexpected collapse or incident leading to or precipitating the events which lead to the death.

There are 2 main parts to the CDOP process:

1. Rapid Response following an unexpected death of a child

A meeting called a 'rapid response' is held by a group of key professionals who ascertain the facts surrounding how your child died unexpectedly. This may take place within the first few days of your child's death. This response is led and co-ordinated by a children's consultant called a designated paediatrician. This may mean a visit (but not always) to where your child died by a police officer, health professional and/or social worker.

The purpose of the meeting is to make sure all relevant information is available to the review process and that the support offered to the family is co-ordinated.

2. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

CDOP reviews all deaths under 18 years. The panel uses information about each child's death to consider whether it can make any recommendations to prevent similar deaths or to improve services for children and families. Anonymised data and recommendations may be shared both locally and nationally.

The CDOP has representation from public health, local health services, social care services, and police. Other organisations may be invited to give specialist advice.

Parents/Carers may feel able to contribute

The CDOP is there to ensure families get the right support following their child's death. You are invited to share information about your child that you feel may help the process. It is not possible for parents or family members to attend the CDOP meetings. However, we would be happy to let you know the findings if you would find this helpful. You can contact the Chair of the CDOP via the CDOP co-ordinator:

Email: **cdop@walthamforest.gov.uk**

Telephone: **020 8496 3691**

Address: Town Hall, Forest Road,
Walthamstow, E17 4JF

All the information the CDOP reviews is treated with respect and in strictest confidence. None of the findings, recommendations or reports will name your child or family.

The Coroner

All unexpected deaths must be reported to the Coroner. This will have been explained by the doctors and professionals following your child's death. Whilst the Coroner is independent of the process, they will be invited to share relevant information with the CDOP. We will also share information with them.