

A few highlights from 2023 !



Farewell to Martin.....Dr Martin Samuels, one of CDOP's Designated Doctors for Unexpected Death, was presented with an award from ACC Riggs for his dedication and outstanding contribution to partnership working and services to children.

Martin has over 40 years' experience in paediatrics and prior to the introduction of the national CDOP processes in 2008, had already established the investigation process for sudden infant deaths. He has remained a stalwart of the service and his knowledge and expertise has been invaluable to the colleagues who have joined the service along the way. Alex Tabor, Caroline Groves, Bekki Thorley and Faith Lindley-Cooke will miss his wisdom as he steps down from the team. We thank you Martin from all CDOP members.

Child Death Operations Group

D/Supt Victoria Lee is the force child death lead and earlier in the year formed the Child Death Operations Group within Staffordshire Police which is a bi-monthly forum to bring people together NPPCC homicide working group and National panel. The group is an opportunity to learn from each other, discuss challenges, and support investigations, as well as share updates on best practice and changes in policy. The group will cascade learning up and down within policing from child death reviews, and op group learning will feed into the child death review process.

Joint Agency Response to Suspected Child Death from Anaphylaxis or Asthma

CDOP met with the National Anaphylaxis Team to form a Working Group to create national guidelines for investigation of fatal anaphylaxis. The emphasis for all agencies is about recognition of anaphylaxis and immediate actions, from use and storage of adrenaline, to collection of any vomit / gastric aspirate, and the importance of testing mast cell tryptase. Further information will be shared to multiple agencies very soon.

'Lily's Story'

MUM IN COURT Mum Carla Foster, 44, jailed for taking abortion pills after the legal time limit

DS Jasmine Tunstall gave an impactful overview of this landmark case to CDOP about the investigative challenges and the emotional side of policing.....

At the next national child death conference in 2024 there will be a focus on neonates , D/Supt Lee and DS Tunstall will give a presentation to the region learning from Lily's story. There has been discussion about classification with NCMMD as there is not a registered category for unattended stillbirths although national guidance surrounding child deaths states these must be overviewed by CDOP.

'Glimpse of Brilliance'

CDOP adopted 'GoB' to recognise staff and teams who have gone the extra mile in supporting children and their families. We know that staff are achieving fantastic things every day despite the challenges, and this award highlights multiagency excellence across our county.





Immersive Training in Portsmouth

D/Supt Vicky Lee and DI Kate Tomkins attended an immersive sudden child death course in Portsmouth. The multiagency simulation focussed on attending the sudden death of a child and got participants to work together through high-intensity exercises.

Watch this space as we are creating this opportunity for CDOP colleagues in Staffordshire.

Safer Sleep and learning from local modifiable factors training event

Bekki Thorley, Sue Lloyd and Faith Lindley-Cooke held training events in Staffordshire to highlight learning and modifiable factors identified following local child deaths reviews. The multiagency events were well attended and received really positive feedback. 8 more events across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have been arranged for professionals in Spring 2024 with the help of the respective board training teams.



Staffordshire Police Force awards recognise some exceptional work.

Faith Lindley-Cooke received the Outstanding Contribution Award, DI Ian Pickstock, DC Emily Hanlon and DC Matt Jones were short listed for their dedicated work bringing justice for the death of 5 month old Ava-Mae Collard. Well Done All

Parents found guilty of causing the death of 5 month of daughter.

After a 5 week trial at Stafford Crown Court, Collard 30 and Grocott 27 were found guilty of causing there daughters death and several other offences.

Detective Constable Emily Hanlon, of Staffordshire Police's CPET, said "This was a truly tragic case in which five-month-old Ava died as a result of the actions of two people who should have protected her."

Coming in 2024

- More collaborative working with regional CMPG developing out support to Families
- More work around Safer Sleep and its Barriers, and parental Choice
- Training for our All CPET Officers and SIO's to enhance our investigative response
- Our First Joint Agency Response Simulation Event
- Whole Genome Sequencing pathways being developed



SUDI/ Kennedy Samples Regional Review Practice Advice for Officers. Locally, and regionally there are some variations in which SUDI/Kennedy samples are taken following the death of a child and young person. Ahead of the national Guidance re-write CDOP have gathered and circulated a regional chart to capture what is happening locally and regionally.

The **Association of Child Death Review Professionals (ACDRP)** held its national conference in Manchester over two days. The conference had a jam packed agenda with expert in their file speakers – including Prof Cohen, 6 different lite bite workshops about Whole Genome Sequencing, supporting families, neonatal deaths. Links will be circulated to all of the presentations and workshops as a reference tool.