

The CDOP newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of The Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to bring news on our on-going campaigns.

Child Death Overview Panel Briefing: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PRACTITIONERS TO VIEW SLEEP ENVIRONMENTS

In February 2020, CDOP released a briefing stating that since June 2019, there has been 5 Sudden Unexpected Deaths in babies under 20 weeks of age across the County where unsafe sleeping environments have been identified as a modifiable factor. Modifiable factors are defined as those, where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future child deaths could be reduced. Despite this briefing, there has been a further death of a 13 day old baby who was co-sleeping on a sofa, increasing the number to 6.

Therefore an action from CDOP is to remind practitioners the importance of completing the safe sleep assessment with parents as on the most recent death this was not completed. It is expected that Midwifery and Health Visitor team members request to view sleeping environments as this follows national best practice guidance and allows a thorough assessment.



Safer Sleep Week is The Lullaby Trust's national awareness campaign targeting anyone looking after a baby. It aims to raise awareness of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and the safer sleep advice that reduces the risk of it occurring.

We know that a greater awareness of safer sleep leads to a decrease in the number of babies dying. Sadly 4 babies die a week from SIDS. If all parents were aware of safer sleep advice, many lives would be saved.

In 2020, the focus is on surviving sleep deprivation. We know that tiredness is the greatest barrier for parents, to following safer sleep advice consistently. In collaboration with Public Health England, Lullaby have created the following brand new animation to help reassure parents that it's completely normal for young babies to wake during the night.

<https://youtu.be/oRXq7kBO-3A>

