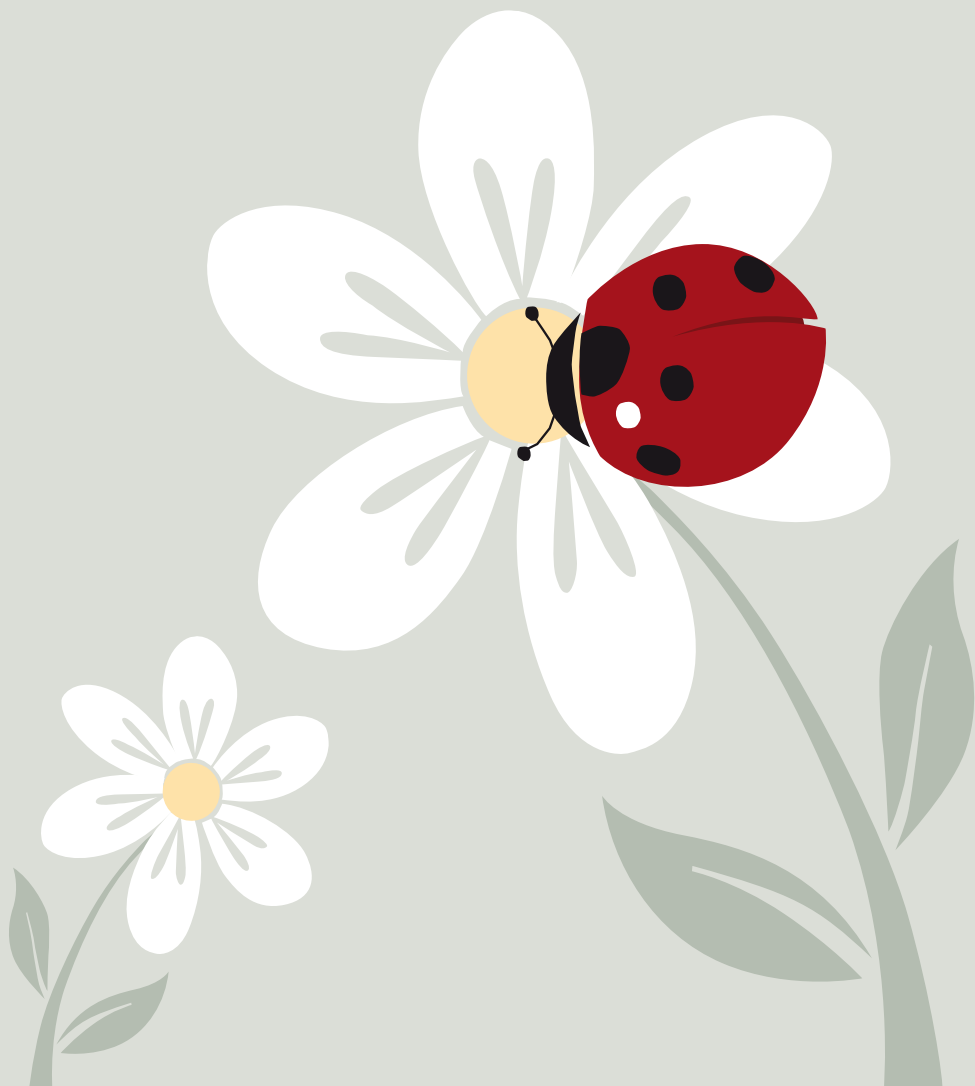


Multi-agency Rapid Response Team for unexpected child deaths

Information for parents, families and carers



Who is in the team?

The Rapid Response Team consists of specialist nurses, police officers and social workers who are committed to ensuring that every thing possible is done to find out why your child died and that your family get the support you need at this time.

The team recognises that the death of any child is a tragedy. The time immediately following the death of a child is deeply distressing and yet important decisions need to be made.

The Rapid Response Team is led by a senior nurse who we call a case clinician. The case clinician will usually meet you at home with a police officer. The presence of the police officer may be a shock but it is vital that they gather the information needed for all sudden unexpected deaths.

The case clinician will co-ordinate team members who will include your GP, social workers, police officers, school nurses and where appropriate, school teachers. This team will undertake the investigation and is also responsible for putting into place the support needed by your family now and into the future.

We will, as far as we can, include the family as partners in the investigation and provide as much information as is possible both now and in the future.

What does the team do?

Within three days of your child's death the case clinician will co-ordinate a meeting so that everyone can share information. This is done to support the investigation and also provides an opportunity for the team to formulate and co-ordinate a plan which offers the support that you and your family may need at this sad time.

This plan will be discussed with you by a member of the team, for example a social worker or family liaison officer from Hertfordshire police.

If a post mortem needs to be held it will usually take place within one week of your child dying. You will be asked by the family liaison officer or social worker who you would like to explain the post mortem findings to you. This may be your own GP, a paediatrician or the Coroner's Officer. The case clinician will often provide a report for the Coroner.

What is the Child Death Overview Panel?

In Hertfordshire the deaths of all children are also reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel. The purpose of these reviews is to see whether we can make recommendations which may improve the health, safety and well being of all children and help to prevent further child deaths in similar circumstances.

For further information visit:

<http://www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk/adults/parents.html>

Questions?

We recognise that every family is unique. We will do our best to make sure we can meet your needs in a way that helps you. There may be occasions when professionals say things you may not understand. Your case clinician will leave you with their contact number and will answer any questions you have.



For further support, advice and information contact:

The Child Death Helpline 0800 282 986 bereaved families will be offered a telephone card to enable them to access this helpline free of charge

CRUSE 0844 477 9400 for bereavement support and advice

FSID 0808 802 6868 offers a freephone helpline to anyone who has experienced the sudden death of a baby

The Samaritans 08457 909 090 for a 24hr helpline to support those in crisis

