

One minute guide

Messages from a Review of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm. (June 2018 – August 2019)

A commissioned National Thematic Review from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
August 2020

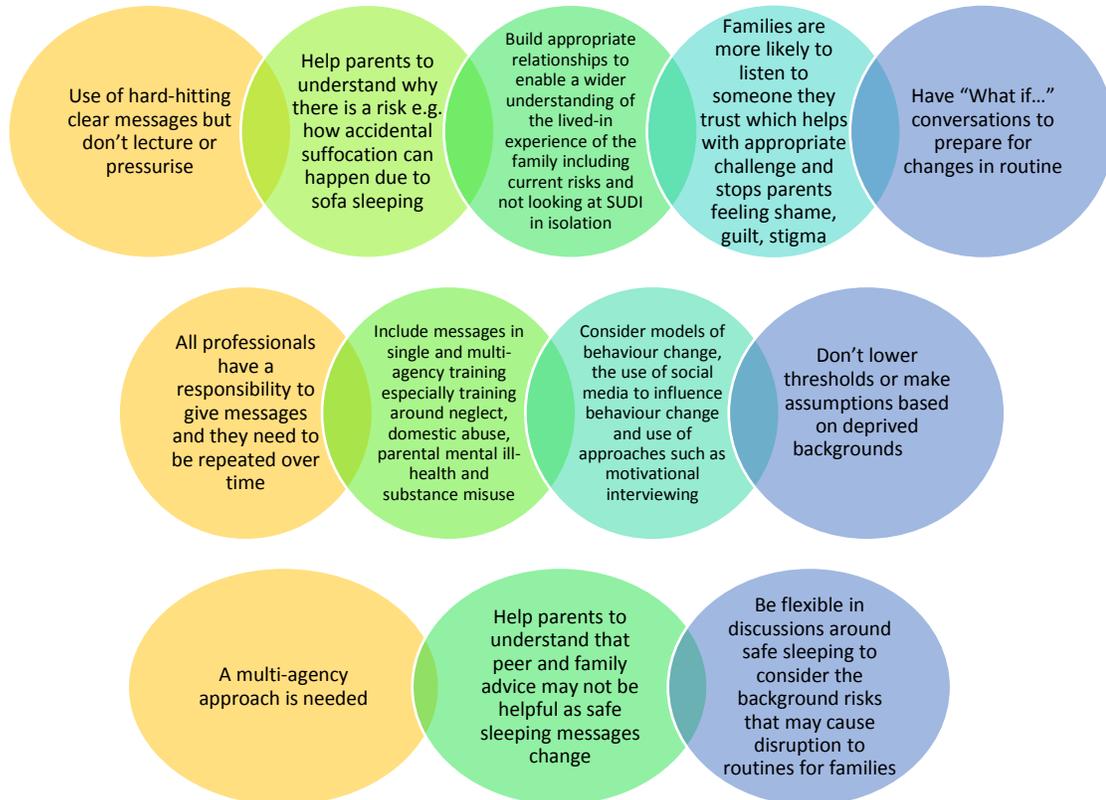
Key messages:

- ❖ There is a shift to SUDI occurring predominantly in families from deprived social and economic backgrounds where circumstances put them at risk not just from SUDI but from other adverse outcomes
- ❖ It is recognised that risk factors for child abuse and neglect overlap with those for SUDI
- ❖ Most deaths were a result of parents co-sleeping with babies in unsafe environments
- ❖ These deaths are preventable; risk factors and the steps parents can take to reduce these are well-known and there are clear evidence-based safe sleeping messages given by professionals
- ❖ Circumstances in parents lives e.g. domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance misuse, can lead to an increase in occasions where the last sleep is out of routine and safe sleeping messages are not followed

Circumstances found in cases reviewed:

- ❖ Where parents had been co-sleeping with babies in unsafe environments it was often after consuming alcohol or drugs
- ❖ A change of routine e.g. accommodation move, baby unwell, parents more tired than usual, leading to decisions being taken that they wouldn't usually take
- ❖ Listening to advice from a family member
- ❖ Worried about the baby's physical safety and believing that maternal instinct is a protective factor
- ❖ Believing that as it's rare "it won't happen to me"

Messages for Professionals



Key Contacts and Further Information

Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership website - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cscp>

Link to review document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901091/DfE_Death_in_infancy_review.pdf