

**Key learning points from the OSCB’s most recent**

**Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) undertaken are:**

1. The role of the fathers in the family system together with communication with and involvement of fathers and male carers;
2. The need for curiosity about family history, relationships and current circumstances that moves beyond reliance on self-reported information;
3. More challenges are faced by professionals working with vulnerable families where neglect is an embedded issue;
4. The impact of the parent’s mental health problems on the safety and wellbeing of children;
5. Understanding of substance misuse and interventions, the changing levels of risk, and the impact on the child;
6. Normalising and misinterpreting behaviour - linked to Special Educational Needs;
7. Identifying the increased safeguarding risks for children with learning disabilities and Special Educational Needs;
8. Identification of physical abuse and following safeguarding processes thoroughly;
9. Multi-agency work must be well co-ordinated in order to share planning and to better understand what is happening to the child. Effective risk management requires systematic planning across the multi-agency partnership;
10. The capacity of adolescents to protect themselves can be overestimated and a tendency to view teenagers as adults rather than children can mean that proactive steps to protect them are not always taken.