

Safeguarding infants, children and young people

Sarah Elliott, panel member Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

First, a reminder of what the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel does



System Oversight

maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

System Learning

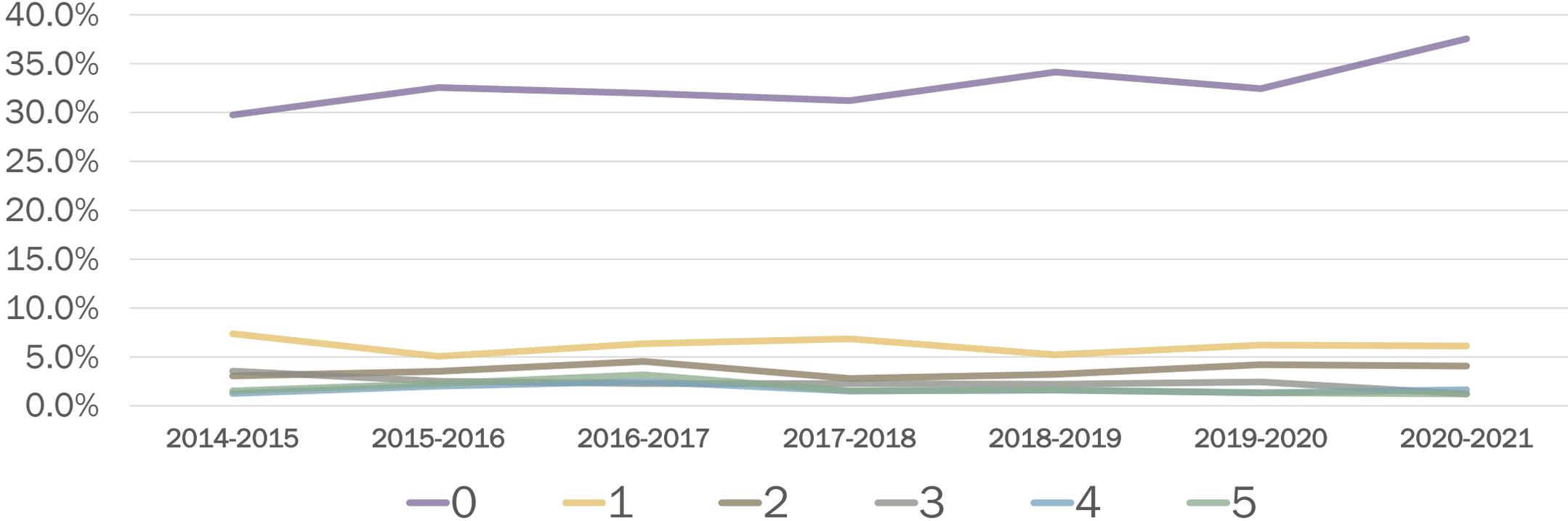
identify and oversee the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in our view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance.

System Leader

identify improvements to practice and protecting children from harm.

Serious Incident Notifications

SINs by % age groups 0 to 5 FYs 2014-2020



Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants (SUDI)

- 325 SUDI deaths each year
- 40 SUDI deaths reported as SINs
- Co sleeping a feature in all cases notified as SINs
- Parental alcohol /substance use featured in 88% of cases notified as SINs

Out of routine...

John Harris, Geoff DeBelle, University of Bristol

How can professionals best support parents to ensure that safer sleep advice can be heard and embedded in parenting practice so as to reduce the risks of SUDI?

THE CHILD
SAFEGUARDING
PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

**Out of routine:
A review of sudden
unexpected death
in infancy (SUDI)
in families where
the children are
considered at risk of
significant harm**

Final report

July 2020

Data from: CDOP annual returns, 2018-19
NCSPR Panel, 2018-19

The SUDI continuum of risk

Level of risk	Families affected	Risk factors identified
Background context	All families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General recognised risk factors for SUDI• Variations in access to and range of preventive services• Fragmentation between providers
Predisposing vulnerability and risk	Families with additional needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socio-economic deprivation• Poor or overcrowded accommodation• Parental background risk factors• Ongoing and cumulative neglect• Limited engagement with services• Prematurity or other vulnerabilities in the infant
Situational risks and out-of-routine incidents	Families with children at risk of significant harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary housing• Change of partner• Altered sleeping arrangements• Alcohol or drug use on the night in question

Safeguarding Partners: Some key questions re preventing SUDI

- How well do we understand the views of parents about safer sleep information?
- How far do our practitioners have the knowledge and understanding to promote safer sleep?
- Do commissioning plans reflect a clear *prevent and protect* model?



- How is SUDI risk assessment embedded within wider safeguarding arrangements?
- How is safer sleeping aligned with wider commissioning strategies?

Non accidental injury of <1s

- 27% (circa 150 per annum) of all SIs relate to NAI or trauma related deaths in <1s
- Of these cases 21% <1s died
- Of those that survived-often due to medical intervention rather than less severe injury
- Perpetrators often young male parent/partner

National thematic review

- Complex and prevalent issue so reviewing through more than one lens
- Stage 1 Men/male carers as perpetrators
- Stage 2 Parents who are/previously LAC
- How can the safeguarding system be more effective at engaging, assessing and planning for and with men in the protection of children (or those for whom they have a parenting responsibility)?

Lines of enquiry

- What can we say about any link between childhood experiences and future abusive behaviour?
- What is the supporting evidence between domestic abuse and coercive control with abuse of under 1s?
- Is poor impulse control the root of such abuse and if so is that in any way predictable or knowable prior to any abuse occurring?
- Is there any discernible difference between one-off events and sustained abuse?

Lines of enquiry

- Is information linked to previous criminal history properly identified and communicated?
- Typically, SCRs and other reviews report on men not being included in assessments and plans. How can the system move to a more balanced and sophisticated understanding of involvement of men?
- What gets in the way of practitioners working with fathers, what are the barriers and what could be done more effectively?

Thank you