

Recognise and tackle modifiable factors

NCMD analysis of child death reviews has shown these are the most commonly recorded factors which could be modified to reduce the risk of children dying.

Smoking in parent or carer



Service delivery



Sleeping arrangements



Substance misuse in parent or carer



Maternal obesity during pregnancy

NCMD

National Child Mortality Database

Encourage safe sleep practices for higher risk families

Use the 6 week baby check to talk to families who might be at higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome. This includes those who misuse alcohol or drugs or smoke. It also includes those who have had a baby born prematurely or babies of a low birth weight.

Get the Lullaby Trust safer sleep card



See them all in our report



Support bereaved parents

“They’re really small things, and they could have happened in any GP practice, but I’m lucky they happened in ours” -Sarah Grogan, bereaved mum



Sarah Grogan
(Frankie's mum)



Hear Sarah's story



Engage with child death reviews

If you are asked to contribute to the child death review process, give as much detail as possible. GPs hold key information not known by other agencies, which helps to understand how and why a child has died. Your insights support national analysis by NCMD and the publication of reports aimed at addressing inequalities in child mortality.

Identify those at risk

The 6 week postnatal checks provide opportunities to use targeted preconception care by identifying parents and families most at risk of child mortality. Be vigilant and ensure that you follow NHS guidance to help those most in need

Learn more about child death review



Read NHS guidance

