

Child Death Review Panel

ALERT – 30/09/16

Please be advised that on 21/09/16 the Derby and Derbyshire Child Death Review Panel became aware of two sudden infant deaths (SIDs) which had occurred during August and September 2016.

The Panel would like to remind all staff working with babies and families of the need to continue to raise the importance of safe sleeping arrangements in line with Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board Policies and Procedures.

Key messages which should be conveyed are:

- Always place baby on their back to sleep
- Place baby in a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as the parent/carer for the first 6 months
- Bed sharing increases the risk of SIDs and is dangerous if either parent smokes, drinks alcohol or takes drugs of any kind
- Never sleep with a baby on a sofa or arm chair
- Never allow baby to sleep for long periods in a baby chair or car seat.
- Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in good condition
- Never let baby get too hot
- Do not cover baby's face or head while sleeping
- Keep baby smoke free
- Breast feeding helps reduce risk
- When babies appear unwell always get medical advice

Safe Sleep checks should be made by professionals at each home visit to reinforce the key messages on safe sleeping arrangements for babies.