

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Annual Report of the Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Child Death Overview Panel 2025

Officer Contact: Dr Lois Hall-Jones, Consultant in Public Health

Report Author: Dr Lois Hall-Jones, Consultant in Public Health

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Purpose of the Report

The Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews deaths of children who are normally resident in the relevant local authority areas. The panel may also review cases of non-resident children who died within the local authority areas. A review of a case by this panel is one of many stages of a child death review process and is intended to find patterns in modifiable factors that have contributed to child deaths. This supports local and national learning and supports the prevention of future deaths.

The annual report 2025 was produced by Dr Steven Senior, Consultant in Public Health and Chair of the Bury, Oldham, and Rochdale CDOP panel at the time of writing. The report looks at demographic data for the three areas, publicly available mortality statistics, and presents an analysis of cases reported to Bury, Oldham and Rochdale CDOP between 2022 and 2025.

The report is presented to Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board by Dr Lois Hall-Jones, Consultant in Public Health and current chair of the Bury, Oldham and Rochdale CDOP panel.

Please refer to the attached Annual Report

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

To consider the findings of the report and the following recommendations:

Child Poverty

The board should note the worsening measures of child poverty and look to work with local partners to ensure that local antipoverty plans address increases in child poverty

Smoking, alcohol and substance misuse

The board, with partners, should continue to work to reduce smoking, alcohol, and drug misuse in pregnancy by:

Ensuring smoking status and alcohol or substance misuse problems are identified early by ensuring that pregnant people are asked about smoking status, alcohol use, and substance use, that this information is recorded, and referrals to appropriate services are made; and

Continuing wider work to reduce the prevalence of smoking, alcohol misuse, and substance misuse across the population and ensuring provision of smoking cessation and drug and alcohol treatment services.

Safe sleeping arrangements

The board, with partners, should continue to promote safe sleeping practices, noting the possible relationship between unsafe sleeping arrangements and overcrowded or otherwise inappropriate housing and with alcohol use by parents. The Safeguarding partnership should ensure children who have additional vulnerabilities are captured in child protection or child in need plans.

Consanguinity

The board should work with partners and community organisations to raise awareness of the increased risk of death and illness faced by children born to parents who are close blood relatives and assure themselves that genetic counselling and testing services are being offered appropriately.

Maternal healthy weight and nutrition

Reductions in high maternal body weight is likely best achieved by reducing high body weight in the population as a whole. This should include efforts to improve diet and exercise in childhood as well as adulthood and reduce inequalities. The board should assure itself of plans to reduce obesity in the population, as well as that support with nutrition and appropriate exercise is available to pregnant people and to people planning to become pregnant.