

The Manchester Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) aims to better understanding how and why children in Manchester die and use the findings to recommend action, to prevent deaths and improve the health and safety of children across the City. From what we know the initiatives below will contribute to preventing deaths of children/young people.

BeCotSafe - A Clear Cot is a Safer Cot

Babies are at higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) if they have their heads are covered, so it is safest to keep baby's cot clear of any items such as bumpers, toys and loose bedding. Babies need just a few basic items for sleep, a firm flat surface and some bedding. The Vulnerable Babies Service advise **NEVER** put a baby to sleep on a soft surface. The Lullaby Trust recommend babies are slept in cots or Moses baskets that are kept as clear as possible and specifically advise:

- **NO** pillows or duvets
- **NO** products (such as wedges, straps) that will keep your baby in one sleeping position
- **NO** soft toys
- **NO** loose bedding
- **NO** cot bumpers

Warning Over Babies Sleeping in Car Seats

The results of a study undertaken by Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust suggests spending long periods of time in a car seat may lead to babies having breathing difficulties. Researchers found that whilst babies were sat at an angle for 30 minutes, either stationary or when in motion, the babies' heart and breathing rate increased, and their blood oxygen levels were lower compared with lying flat in a cot. When you do need to take a baby in a car, always use an approved rearward-facing baby seat that is properly fitted, but avoid taking very young babies, especially premature and low-birth weight babies, on long journeys. **It is not advisable to leave a child sleeping in a car seat at home.**

Button Cell Batteries: What Are the Dangers?

Although a child may not choke, if undetected button batteries can do serious damage to the gastrointestinal system. When combined with saliva, the electrical current from the battery produces caustic soda that burns through the throat or stomach and can cause further damage to other internal organs. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) advises:



- Make sure toys and other products have lockable battery compartments
- Be extra vigilant with items including musical greeting cards, flameless candles and remote controls as they do not have lockable compartments
- Ensure spare batteries are locked away, and used batteries are disposed of correctly

If your child swallows a button cell battery, seek medical advice IMMEDIATELY. Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery and so time is very much of the essence in these cases.

Baby Loss Awareness Week: 9-15 October 2018

Every year, thousands of people in the UK are affected by the death of a baby or experience pregnancy loss. A collaboration between more than 60 charities across the UK, Baby Loss Awareness Week is held from 9 to 15 October to raise awareness about the key issues affecting those who have experienced pregnancy loss or baby death in the UK. To find out more visit the website www.babyloss-awareness.org



Want to know more about the Manchester Child Death Overview Panel? Visit the MSB website www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/resource/child-death-overview-panel-cdop-information-practitioners