

ACDRP Conference – Milton Keynes

Speaker Biographies

Thursday 14th November 2024 Keynote Sessions

Dr David Odd PhD, Consultant Neonatologist, National Child Mortality Database (NCMD)

David is a Consultant Neonatologist and Senior Lecturer in the Division of Population Medicine at Cardiff University School of Medicine; where his clinical research centres around the population impact of perinatal care; in particular, the prevention and impact of brain injury around birth. He is also lead Epidemiologist for the English National Child Mortality Database, where his interests lie across social-economic patterns of Child Mortality.

Sylvia Stoianova, Deputy Director, NCMD Programme, University of Bristol

Sylvia Stoianova is Deputy Director of the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) Programme at the University of Bristol. She is also an author of the NCMD thematic reports and academic publications. Sylvia has over 20 years of experience in clinical audits, service improvement, national data collection and analytical systems, and public health. She previously worked in the National Health Service, Public Health England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities at the Department of Health and Social Care in various projects and roles.

Vicky Sleaf, National Child Mortality Database (NCMD)

Vicky Sleaf is one of the Deputy Directors of the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD). With 15 years' practical experience in the field of child death reviews, she has used her in-depth knowledge to train CDR professionals and influence the process at a national level. Vicky co-authored the CDR statutory and operational guidance published in 2018 and most recently has contributed to the writing of Working Together 2023.

Vicky has also acted as an international consultant, advising and assisting other countries in setting up child death review processes, and now frequently provides advice and support to child death professionals via webinars and conferences. She is also a trustee for the charity 2Wish who support families in Wales and England in the immediate aftermath of a sudden death of a child.

Detective Inspector Ian Pickstock Child Protection, Staffordshire Police

Temporary Detective Inspector.

DI Ian Pickstock joined Staffordshire Police 2002, spent 2 years in uniform and 20 years in CID, RASSO, the Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Child Protection.

Now the SIO of a large-scale investigation into abuse at two hospital trusts.

Workshops

Sarah Steel, Designated Dr Child Death, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB

Sarah is a consultant community paediatrician and have worked in Norfolk since 1995. Sarah started the role with CDOP when she became Designated Dr for Safeguarding in 2015. She has chaired the Eastern region CDOP since its inception and was delighted to see the development of the ACDRP and be a part of the committee and is currently treasurer. Sarah also represent the East of England on the National Network of Designated Health Professionals.

Robert Simmons, Detective Sergeant, Bedfordshire Police

Staff officer to the NPCC Homicide Working Group Child Death Sub-Group, co-author and editor of forthcoming publication NPCC Practice Advice on Child Death Investigation.

Cindie Dunkling, Designated Nurse in Safeguarding, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB

Cindie is a paediatric nurse and health visitor by background and has worked in Suffolk as Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Child Death Review since 2013. In 2019 Cindie developed and lead the CDR team responding to all child deaths. Cindie is deputy chair of the Eastern region CDOP and co-chair of the Suffolk CDOP. She is also an internal Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) report writer for the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership with the most recent CSPR focusing on concealed pregnancies and neonaticide.

Dr Kaye England, Lead Medical Examiner, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Kaye has been a Consultant in Birmingham in Adult Critical Care and Anaesthesia since 2004. Kaye's specialist interests include Burns, Trauma and Medicolegal concerns. Appointed as a Medical Examiner in 2014 when QEH became an 'early adopter' of the project for DoH; lead ME for QE 2015 and 2018 for UHB. As the Medical Examiner system developed nationally, Kaye led the expansion of the ME system to cover community deaths within Birmingham and Solihull (~12000deaths/year).

Dr Victoria Fradd, Consultant Neonatologist and Medical Examiner, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust

Victoria has been a neonatal consultant at Birmingham Heartlands for 22 years with an interest in clinical governance and learning from deaths. She has been working as a Medical Examiner for 6 years, participate in PMRTs and provide neonatal representation to the trust's CDRM and Birmingham and Solihull's CDOP.

Di Stubbs, Head of Training and Research, Child Bereavement UK

Di's role at Child Bereavement UK is to oversee our programme of online and bespoke training for anyone who is supporting bereaved families. This involves working with a team of highly experienced bereavement professionals to develop and deliver a wide range of training that meets the needs both of those participating and also of those who they will support. She has been involved for over 25 years with organisations (such as Winston's Wish, Nelson's Journey) delivering bereavement support, working with children who are grieving and with adults who have been bereaved of a child. During this time, Di spent some years with the Childhood Bereavement Network on policy and practical issues affecting bereaved families.

Nicola Eschbaecher, Designated Nurse for Child Death Reviews & Health Lead for Case Reviews, NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG

Following the deaths of Baby A and Baby B, Nicola was invited to be part of the review team for the published Prison and Probations Ombudsman investigations, linking the findings and learning across all of the processes, whilst bringing a Child Death Review perspective. In addition, Nicola has supported families in prison following the death of their baby, contributed to updates of HMPPS national policies, and followed the seismic shift forward in recent years to improve services for pregnant women and new mothers with babies, living within the prison estate. Nicola would love for you to join her in the workshop, where she will share the learning, challenges and personal experiences of working together with the Prison and Probation Ombudsman and the largest female prison in Europe.

Suzi Armitage, Designated Doctor, Leicestershire Partnership NHST

Suzi worked as a Consultant Community Paediatrician, and Designated Doctor for Child Deaths for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland as a medical student in Leicester, she carried out a research year looking at vulnerability factors associated with SIDS, and has maintained an interest in learning from families, learning from child deaths, and using the data from Child Death Reviews to advocate for the children, young people and families in her local area. Suzi is Vice Chair of the East Midlands Regional CDOP Group & represents the East Midlands on the ACDRP Exec Committee. Outside of work Suzi enjoys being in the garden, spending time running around after her three children & (in spite of the lack of encouragement from younger members of my family) she is attempting to learn the violin!

Jenny Ward, Chief Executive, Lullaby Trust

Jenny has worked for the Lullaby Trust for 18 years and is Chair of the Pregnancy and Baby Charities Network, a group of 30 charities that work in this area. The Lullaby Trust works to both prevent sudden infant deaths and support those affected by the devastating loss of a baby or you child.

Dr Julie Vogt MD FRCP, Consultant Clinical Geneticist, South West Thames Centre for Genomics and Honorary Clinical Senior Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham

Julie gained dual accreditation in paediatrics and clinical genetics and was appointed as a Consultant Clinical Geneticist in the West Midlands Regional Genetics Service in 2009, where she was the Clinical Genetics lead for Paediatric Neurology and provided a multi-disciplinary model of care for children with often serious and progressive life-limiting conditions. Julie has led a Genomic Medicine Transformation project designing and piloting preconception optimised exome testing (POET) for couples at high risk of genetic disorders.

Dr Hannah Titheradge is a Consultant in Clinical Genetics at the Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Hannah Titheradge is the rare disease lead for the Birmingham Women's Hospital. She specialises in immune dysregulation. Hannah is part of a multidisciplinary team establishing genomic testing for sudden unexplained death in childhood and sudden unexplained death in infancy. She also has a research project performing reanalysis of genomic sequencing data, including the SUDC/SUDI indication, as well as performing a pilot study utilising long read sequencing for diagnosis of patients with rare genetic disorders.

Nicola Needham, Child Death Review Manager, London Borough of Newham

Nicola is a Registered Midwife and Health Visitor with 30 years' experience working in the NHS and also the private sector. Nicola has worked as CDOP Manager starting in London Borough of Newham in 2016, Tower Hamlets 2017-2019 and progressed to manager of five London boroughs in NE London in 2020. Nicola was a member of the Healthy London Partnership CDOP board from 2016 -2019 and was a key player in introducing the online digital case management system eCDOP into London Borough of Newham and then into London in 2018. Nicola was previously a member of the National Network of CDOPS from 2016 -2020 and is currently Co-Director and Deputy Chair of Association of Child Death Review Professionals.

Chris Miller, Co-Director, NW London CDOP

Chris Miller is the chair of the North West London Child Death Overview panel and is also the independent scrutineer to the Harrow Safeguarding Children Partnership. He is a member of the London Safeguarding Children's Board.

He worked as a police officer for 32 years until 2011 and during his career he specialised in serious crime investigation, child protection, sex offender management and the community response to prolific offenders with drug and alcohol problems.

Since 2011 he has held a number of safeguarding roles, has worked for a domestic abuse charity and currently is working with a number of organisations and agencies to improve the understanding and use of artificial intelligence in a child safeguarding context.

Lauren White, Assistant Director, Information Assurance & Contracts, London Borough of Newham

Lauren started working in local government in 2007 in Social Care IT and has held a variety of roles from working on Helpdesks, Project and Business Relationship Management before moving fully into governance and assurance. She is currently Assistant Director Information Assurance and the designated Data Protection Officer for both LB Newham and LB Havering.

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Dr Ciaran Hutchinson, Consultant Paediatric Pathologist, Great Ormond Street Hospital

Dr Ciaran Hutchinson is a consultant paediatric pathologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital. He completed a PhD fellowship at UCL GOS-ICH with Prof. Neil Sebire, focusing on the development of minimally invasive paediatric and foetal autopsy, during which he was awarded a silver research medal from the Royal College of Pathologists. He has ongoing interests in autopsy pathology, x-ray physics, and paediatric oncology.

Sandy Lewis, Director of the Maternity Investigation Programme, MNSI

Sandy joined the programme when it was part of the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) in March 2017 as a National Investigator. She moved into the role of Associate Director of Maternity Investigations after the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asked HSIB to carry out the work around maternity safety investigations outlined in the Safer Maternity Care action plan. Since then, she has successfully overseen the rollout of our maternity investigation programme across 125 NHS trusts in England. Sandy has more than 30 years of healthcare experience, in the NHS and Australia. She started her career as a healthcare assistant with accident and emergency care, before completing her nurse training and specialising in critical care nursing and as a nurse practitioner. Sandy holds an MSc in Leadership and Service Innovation.

Professor Helen Ball, Director of the Durham Infancy & Sleep Centre, Durham University

Professor Helen Ball is Director of the Infancy & Sleep Centre (DISC), Department of Anthropology, at Durham University. Her research examines the sleep ecology of infants and their parents including attitudes and practices regarding infant sleep, behavioural and physiological interactions of infants and their parents during sleep, infant sleep development, and the discordance between cultural and biological sleep needs. She contributes to national and international policy and practice guidelines on infant care. She is Chair of the Research & Grants Committee for the Lullaby Trust, and a member of the Lullaby Trust Scientific Advisory Group. She has also served as an elected Board Member of ISPID (the International Society for the Study and Prevention of Infant Deaths).

Dr Charles Musters, Consultant Psychiatrist, East London NHS Foundation Trust

Charlie has been a Consultant Psychiatrist in the Perinatal Mental Health Team in Newham, East London, for 15 years, and is part of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Expert Reference Group on Fabricated or Induced Illness. He now works extensively as an Expert Witness and has wide experience assessing parents who have harmed their children.

Through his clinical and medico-legal work, he has assessed many patients who have denied and concealed their pregnancies, who have fabricated pregnancies, or who have fabricated or induced illness in their children. In most cases, these diverse behaviours reflect profound disturbances in parent-child bonding and attachment. With reference to case histories, Charlie will explore the psychiatric and psychological factors which may help us understand these extreme distortions of parenting.

Dr Joanna Garstang, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Birmingham, Chair of ACDRP

Dr Joanna Garstang is a Clinical Associate Professor of Child Protection at the University of Birmingham, Consultant Community Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Child Death for Birmingham and Solihull. Her specialist areas are in safeguarding children, Child Death Review and Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood. Joanna's PhD was an evaluation of multi-agency investigation of unexpected infant death from both the parents' and professionals' perspectives, more recently her research has focussed on improving multi-agency working in safeguarding and preventable child mortality. Joanna has been part of the team conducting the biennial and triennial analyses of Serious Case Reviews, and the more recent annual analysis of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Joanna is currently funded by NIHR leading a study 'Involving Parents and Staff in Learning from Child Deaths,' and by the Nuffield Foundation to lead a study 'Improving Safeguarding Outcomes following adoption or Special Guardianship'. Joanna is Chair of the Association of Child Death Review Professionals, and a Specialist Medical Advisor to the National Child Mortality Database.

Workshops

Cora Doherty, MNSI Clinical Advisor for Neonatology

Cora Doherty is a Consultant Neonatologist at the University Hospital for Wales, Cardiff. Her medical degree is from the National University of Ireland (NUIG). She was awarded a Medical Research Council Clinical Training Fellowship to undertake research into developmental programming at the University of Cambridge.

Her clinical interests are in growth and nutrition alongside Patient Safety, Quality Improvement and team working. She is a Neonatal Clinical Adviser with the Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI) programme and the national Clinical Lead for the Maternity and Neonatal Safety Support Programme (MatNeoSSP) in Wales. She is a coach, has a Diploma in Neurolinguistic Programming and training in investigation science and Human Factors. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors and previously BAPM lead for Education and Training.

Gaynor McGinness, Maternity Investigator, Maternity & Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI)

BA RGN, RM, PG Cert Medical & Healthcare Education Gaynor is a Maternity Investigator with the Maternity & Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI) formally the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) since September 2018. Gaynor's role is working as part of a team to undertake investigations and draft reports that inform learning and patient safety improvement. The team work closely with families to understand their journey through pregnancy and birth, and with staff to identify local learning to improve maternity and newborn safety.

Gaynor is a nurse (ex-midwife) and worked within neonatal care for 23 years, latterly working as a Practice Development and Guideline Lead within the NICU at Cambridge University Hospital. She has been a Neonatal Life Support instructor for over 10 years.

Mary Gainsborough, Designated Doctor for Child Death, Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB

Dr Mary Gainsborough is Designated Doctor for Children's Deaths for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) CDOP, as well as a Community and Palliative Care Paediatrician and a Medical Examiner

Alvin Schadenberg MD PhD FRCPCH FFICM, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Alvin completed paediatric training in the Netherlands and moved to Bristol in 2013 for a fellowship in PIC and cardiology. He started as a consultant paediatric intensivist in 2017 at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. PhD (2013) in inflammatory response post congenital cardiac surgery.

Penelope Schofield, Senior Coroner, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove

Penny was appointed as HM Coroner for West Sussex on 1st January 2008. This Coronial area merged with Brighton and Hove on 1st April 2023, and she now manages the newly formed West Sussex and Brighton and Hove area. She was formerly an Assistant Deputy Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire. She has been working in the Coronial Service for 18 years. Her current Coronial jurisdiction is a large jurisdiction with around 4,500 deaths reported each year. Last year 500 Inquests were held 18 of which were held with Juries. Penny has a keen interest in Coroner training and was appointed by the Chief Coroner and the Judicial College as the lead Course Director for Coroner's continuation training in 2013.

Jamie Carter, Consultant Paediatrician, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children

Dr Jamie Carter, MBBS, BSc, DTM & H, FRCPCH, LFFLM is a Consultant Paediatrician and Honorary Senior Lecturer at BSMS and is the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths (and child safeguarding) in Sussex. Jamie completed a Fellowship in the Child Protection Unit at Sydney Children's Hospital, Australia and is trained in the forensic assessment of children who have been suspected of being sexually and physically abused. Jamie has developed and delivered training on a number of topics, including the child death process, FASD and child abuse, to a wide range of audiences as well as working as an expert witness in the area of child protection

(male sexual abuse signs). Jamie was previously Assistant Child Protection Officer at the RCPCH, with the remit of overseeing and delivering Education in Safeguarding and Child Protection, leading on the development of the RCPCH Forensic Sexual Assault Best Practice Course and runs the FASD course.

Jon Holmes, Policing Representative, ACDRP Executive Committee (Det Supt ret'd)

Jon Holmes is a policing representative on the ACDRP executive committee. Jon was a police officer for thirty years and, as Detective Superintendent, was Lancashire Constabulary's Head of Major Crime, responsible for homicide investigations. Jon was his force's thematic lead for child death investigation from 2015 to 2022. He has been a member of the national Police Child Death Working Group since 2015. In this latter role, Jon led the review of the national police training programme in this area and was part of the working group that produced the current revision of national police guidance for child death investigation. Since leaving policing, Jon has lectured on criminal investigation and been a Course Leader for the Policing Educational Qualification Framework at the University of Central Lancashire. Since September 2023, has worked as a maternity investigator for the Maternity & Newborn Safety Investigations Programme (part of CQC). Jon has a particular interest in decision-making in the context of child death and other high-risk investigations.