



## 1 minute guide: Thematic Review of Under 1s.

We all understand how dependent babies are on their carers to meet all their needs, for safety, emotional wellbeing, nutrition, and good hygiene. The high level of dependency means that they can very quickly suffer significant harm if their carers are not able to provide them with good care. Professionals around the family of a baby have an important role in supporting them to provide good care, and alerting the professional network if they are concerned that the carers are not managing to do this.

The review found that sometimes professionals don't share information quickly enough to keep babies safe, for a mixture of reasons including being unclear about the requirements for consent, not appreciating the harm that can be caused to a baby by domestic abuse in the parents' relationship or not reviewing their risk assessment when they have new information about the family. The Safeguarding Children Partnership offers training that covers all these areas, information is available on our website.

The review highlighted how important it is for practitioners gain an understanding of a baby or pre-verbal child's experience of family life by observing them and the interactions they have with their carers. It is important not to rely just on what you are being told by parents or carers. No child is too young or too disabled to communicate to us that they are content, excited, alarmed, curious or disinterested.

The review found that professionals often only engaged with the baby's mother, and fathers and step-fathers who can be both protective and risky, were not sufficiently involved in assessments and plans.

If you share information of concerns with other professionals and they do not take the action you believe is required from them to safeguard a child you should use the partnership escalation policy to pursue discussion of your concerns until an outcome is found that all parties can accept.

Look on [Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership Website](#) for practice guidance and information about training.