

# Local Policy on Practice Reviews for: Serious Offences

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## Background:

Following a review of the voluntary notification procedure (introduced in June 2021) and consultation with the sector, the decision was taken by the Youth Justice Board to make Serious Incident notifications across England and Wales mandatory from the 1st April 2022.

The YJB request Youth Justice Service's (YJS) to notify them if a child or young person involved in their supervision has been charged with one of the following offences:

- Attempted murder
- Murder/manslaughter
- Wounding
- Rape
- Terrorism

Further guidance can be found in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-incidents-notification-standard-operating-procedures-for-yots/serious-incidents-notification-standard-operating-procedures-for-yots#contents>

In addition to requiring local YJS's to submit a Serious Incident notification, the YJB require all published reviews of any relevant notified serious incidents be submitted to them via the serious incident's mailbox at the point of completion/publication. This is to enable the YJB to digest and disseminate the learning and any recommendations from those reviews. **The YJB does not require the submission of any internally produced learning reviews, only those that are published.**

Downloadable document: [Mandatory SI Notification Guidance](#)

Whilst there are notification requirements set out by the YJB, it is down to each Local Authority to determine how it learns from serious incidents in line with locally agreed processes which are set out within this Policy.

### **Proposal:**

Salford Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP) have a well-established and successful process for practice review referrals, it is proposed that this process is utilised for any referral for the purpose of a serious offence review.

### **Criteria:**

A young person under the age of 18 has been charged with one or more of the following offences:

- Attempted murder
- Murder/manslaughter
- Wounding
- Rape
- Terrorism

### **Referral form:**

The standard Practice Review Referral Form must be completed and be sent to the SSCP mailbox.

Downloadable document: [GREATER MANCHESTER SERIOUS CHILD SAFEGUARDING CASE NOTIFICATION FORM](#)

### **Virtual panel and referral discussion panel:**

The virtual panel must be convened within 48 hours of the referral being made and include the statutory partners from the existing panel and the Head of Salford Youth Justice Service. This allows for all partners to consider the right review process.

### **Timescales:**

The review must take place within 45 working days as per the practice review timescales already established within the partnership.

### **Admin support:**

The review will be organised and arranged by the SSCP unit – minutes will be completed by the SSCP or from the pool of admin support available to the SSCP.

### **Chairing:**

The chair should be either the Head of the Youth Justice Service or relevant local DCI.

### **Information Sharing:**

All agencies involved in the review will have a responsibility to share information that will support the review and any learning however, each agency must consider the information in which they share on a case-by-case basis and what they feel is proportionate and defensible in line with their own agencies information sharing arrangements.

Serious Offences Reviews are likely to take place prior to the conclusion of any criminal prosecution. Investigators, disclosure officers and/or prosecutors have a duty to take reasonable steps to identify, secure and consider relevant material which is not in their possession. Material may be relevant to an investigation if it appears to an investigator, or to the officer in charge of an investigation, or to the disclosure officer, that it has some bearing on any offence under investigation or any person being investigated, or on the surrounding circumstances of the case, unless it is incapable of having any impact on the case. A representative of GMP will be invited to any review in order to assess information being shared and its relevance to the investigation. GMP will make an application to agencies to obtain relevant information. This information may be disclosed within subsequent criminal proceedings.

**Recommendations / action plan form completed review:**

To be held within the SSCP as per current practice. As detailed on page 1, the YJB does not require the submission of any internally produced learning reviews, only those that are published.

This proposal allows a clear local pathway for serious offences to be reviewed, as well as ensuring all relevant safeguarding information and outcomes are triangulated within our partnership safeguarding framework. Key points from such learning reviews will also be shared with the YJS Partnership Board and the Community Safety Partnership via the Youth Crime Prevention Group.