



## **Co – sleeping Alert !**

The North of Tyne Child Death Overview panel (CDOP) consists of senior members of agencies including health, police, children's social care and ambulance service and is chaired by an independent person. We meet on a regular basis to review the deaths of every child in the area (Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside) with the aim to learn lessons and prevent deaths occurring in the future.

The death of any child is tragic, but deaths which could have been prevented are beyond comprehension. Although we've undertaken this role for a number of years, we sadly see similar themes emerging.

Every year North of Tyne, we see preventable deaths of babies who have been co-sleeping with their parents either in bed or on a chair / settee. In 2013 there were 3 and to date in 2014 there have been a further 2 deaths where co-sleeping was considered a factor. There are usually associated risks present including parental smoking and the use of drugs (including some prescription drugs) and / or alcohol.

As a professional working with parents, we strongly advise that you reinforce these facts with your clients.

We want to promote a 'common sense' approach and understand there are instances where parents do have their babies in bed with them safely. But, as CDOP panel members, we feel it is our duty to share the facts with yourselves to enable parents to make informed choices.

We would like this information shared routinely with all parents and carers, preferably in the ante-natal period. We would be grateful if you could also share this with colleagues and anyone else you deem appropriate.

If you have any queries, or want to know more about our work, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Nurse for your area.

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North of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel.  
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