

MAY/JUNE 2022

The CDOP newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of The Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to bring news on our on-going campaigns.

Child Death Overview Panel Briefing:

CDOP have recently reviewed the death of an 8-year-old child who died in a Road Traffic Collision and as part of the Child Death Review, learning has been identified in relation to car safety.

A Cybex Solution S I-FIX car seat was being used by the child. This type of child car seat is manufactured in two sections, a lower booster seat section, and back rest with a height adjustable head rest. Only the lower booster seat was being used for the child. It was established that the car seat should only be used as a complete unit with both parts of the seat, that is, the lower booster seat and back rest together. Further discussion with the company established that by using the booster seat alone would increase the risk of injury to a child due to an elevated seating position and most crucially the lack of the side protection that is offered by the back rest. The lack of the back rest also severely compromises the security of the seat within the vehicle when securing the child within the seat.

Each year thousands of young children are killed or injured in crashes. Proper use of car safety seats helps keep children safe.

<https://www.capt.org.uk/car-safety>

<https://www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/safety/choosing-a-baby-car-seat/>

Legislation dictates that children must normally use a child car seat until they are 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

In relation to this specific seat and the codes listed, the manufacturer guidelines state that the child seat is suitable for children aged approximately 3 – 12 years, a body height of between 100-150cm and a weight of between 15kg – 50kg.

The child weighed 62kg and was approximately 5'4" (162cm) tall. The seat was also therefore being used outside the weight and height limitations for its design and intention.

The UK child car safety law states Children over 12 years or more than 135cm tall, as in this case, must wear a seat belt.

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

A close-up photograph of a young child with light hair and blue eyes, smiling broadly while seated in a brown car seat. The child is wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of a car.

ROSPA

Keeping Kids Safe

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

For information on choosing the right seat, visit www.childcarseats.org.uk.

By law children must use the correct child car seat until they are at least 135cm tall or 12 years old.

If your vehicle was in a crash, replace child car seats and adult seat belts.

Booster seats with backs are a safer option than backless booster cushions.

Fit the seat securely, in line with instructions. It's best to buy from a shop with trained fitters.

Top tips for safer car seats

www.rospa.com/keeping-kids-safe

Lifeline on freephone 0808 801 0822