# Tragic Death of Baby Roo Under Child Protection Plan



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A seven-month-old baby, identified only as Roo, died mysteriously at his family home despite being under a child protection plan in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees, England. The infant had been involved with social services due to family issues, including domestic abuse, the father's cannabis use, and poor home conditions.

Roo was born four weeks prematurely and was found deceased in August last year. Official reports reveal that Roo’s family had been monitored by authorities for years. Despite this, Roo remained in the home amid warning signs of abuse. A health visitor noted the baby was swaddled with his face covered, an explanation given by Roo’s mother to hold his dummy in place, was accepted by healthcare professionals.

Concerns increased after Roo sustained two brain bleeds in February 2022. Although initially believed to have been caused by a toy thrown by a sibling, experts later determined the injuries were likely inflicted. Care proceedings were initiated, leading to Roo's father being banned from the home, while his mother stayed under supervision from a family friend.

Roo's mother, who had a learning disability, had an older child from a previous relationship adopted. Further concerns included Roo’s older sibling (referred to as Child 1) demonstrating violent behavior at school and home, as well as reported incidents of the father’s threats and aggression.

Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership conducted a review, making 12 recommendations to enhance training, best practices, and communication among professionals. No cause of death has been established, and it remains unexplained.

A spokesperson stated, "It is important that lessons are learned from this case, and work is ongoing with all relevant partners to implement the recommendations."

[204 words]