Introduction

- Paediatricians play a vital role in managing the multi-agency investigative process following a sudden unexpected death in infancy or childhood (SUDIC).
- Inadequate investigation has devastating consequences for families and professionals.
- Low incidence of SUDIC and shortened training time result in reduced exposure.
- The Kennedy Report highlighted the need for improvement of training.
- Despite these recommendations, a lack of experience and awareness of the multi-professional roles exists amongst senior trainees.
- In a recent survey, no senior trainees had observed the whole SUDIC process, and several had not been exposed to any cases so far.
- Simulation-based education has been used effectively to bridge the gap between knowledge and clinical experience.
- We developed a one-day course for senior paediatric trainees and consultants using high-fidelity simulation and experiential learning.

Methods

- Content and scenarios were mapped to the Postgraduate RCPCH Curriculum for General Paediatrics and Community Child Health.
- Course delivered by SUDIC specialists within paediatrics and police.
- Outcomes assessed included qualitative pre- and post-course confidence and self-reported skills performing key aspects of SUDIC management.

Results

- Seven SUDIC simulation courses have been delivered to date (2015-2017), with 8-15 candidates in each.
- Course continues to be run three times a year.
- Range of healthcare professionals attend course.

Conclusion

- 100% felt the course met their own learning objectives.
- 100% reported that attending would change their future practice.
- Free text feedback comments were overwhelmingly positive:
  - "clarifying my role in the process"
  - "understanding ... the police perspective"
  - "developing ... a 'communication toolbox'"
  - "very powerful"

- Simulation training improved confidence and perceived ability to manage key aspects of SUDIC – an area where self-reported confidence and skills are low due to little clinical exposure.
- This may ultimately improve the quality of SUDIC investigations and experiences for families.
- This course is funded for all trainees within our deanery.
- It has the potential to be delivered nationally.
- It could be adopted for multi-professional SUDIC training for health, social care and police.
- Follow-up work could assess retention of improved confidence.

References