Guidance on first actions at the scene of a sudden and unexpected death

**ABC – Assume nothing, Believe nobody, Challenge everything!**
If deceased is under 18 years old, contact supervisor re Child Death protocol.

### Call handler
- Caller details
- Location
- Ambulance called?
- Who is in attendance?

### Deploy
- Intelligence checks/risk factors
- Avoid using biased language

### Minimise number of people present at scene
- Assess risk
- Ambulance called?
- First aid?
- Life extinct?

### Assess
- Note what you see and record what you do (including route(s) used – body-worn video/notes/sketch)
- Assess body – injuries/trauma?
- Witnesses?
- Signs of break in/disturbance/alcohol/drugs (including paraphernalia)?
- Search scene: other bodies/potential offender present?
- Intelligence checks/risk factors?
- Vulnerable deceased?

### Unnatural death
- Call supervisor/CSI (depending on force policy)
- Protect scene
- Set up initial cordon
- Commence scene log

### Non-suspicious
- If present:
  - doctor may issue Medical Certificate of Death (MCCD)
  - nurse may issue Verification of Expected Death (VOED) (nursing home).
- If not:
  - complete coroner’s report in accordance with force policy
  - consider seizing relevant items.