Terms of reference for strategy requests to Police

March 2019

* 1. **Strategy Meetings**

1.1 Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm there should be a strategy discussion involving local authority children’s social care (including the residential or fostering service, if the child is looked-after), the police, health and other bodies such as the referring agency

* 1. A strategy should not be held for an investigation update as the OIC (Officer in Charge) details can be given by MASH for direct OIC contact. Police information sharing can be completed pre a strategy meeting via police checks using the MASH information form. A strategy should not be held to purely gain Police information.
	2. If further information is needed, then this should be gathered prior to requesting the strategy meeting, as this may negate the need for a strategy meeting. If there are any questions or queries, then please contact the DS (Detective Sergeant) or grade D (equivalent of a Police Sergeant) at the MASH for further advice or discussion on 051 666 3872.
1. **Process to request a strategy meeting:**

2.1 The social work manager or ASWP should consider whether a sit-down face to face strategy or a telephone phone discussion is required. This may be determined by the nature and urgency of the need to identify immediate safeguards and or the complexity of the concerns.

2.2 Request must be quality assured and forwarded to the Business Support Assistant. Any forms not authorised or filled in incorrectly will be returned.  The Business Support Assistant will then forward by email the strategy request form to the West MASH email address (West.MASH@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)

2.3 The social worker/ Advanced Practitioner/ Team Manager should phone the Business Support Assistant to confirm receipt of the strategy request and to indicate availability for the meeting.

2.4 The Strategy meeting will be arranged as per the Wirral practice guidance as set out below.

A Police qualified person a DS or grade D will be on duty for strategies between 0900 to 1700hrs daily Monday to Friday to facilitate these meetings.  For strategy requests outside of these hours the Team Manager or ASWP should call the police on 101 and request a discussion with a Duty Sergeant.

2.5 If a strategy meeting is no longer required the Social worker must email the Business Support Assistant and West.MASH@merseyside.pnn.police.uk immediately with a rationale of WHY the meeting is no longer required, for Police record keeping and closure of police files. Any strategy requests that are subsequently cancelled require agreement from CSC TM, Police and Health. This decision must be recorded on the child’s file.