**Core Group Practice Standards**

The following **practice standards** relating to Core Groups have been agreed:

* Core Groups will be convened within 10 working days of the ICPC that agrees that a child is at risk of significant harm and a CP plan is required.
* Families will be visited within 72 hours of a decision made at ICPC for a CP plan to be made.
* Core Groups will take place at intervals not exceeding 6 weeks up to the first review and subsequent RCPCs.
* 10 working days before the RCPC the core group must meet and professionals need to jointly agree the recommendation to conference.
* Any professional differences of opinion must be clearly evidenced and outlined.
* Social work reports for the ICPC should be shared with the family 2 working days before the conference and 5 working days before an RCPC.