

### **Significant Harm Checklist**

**Step 1:** Can the concerns be evidenced to have an impact (significant harm) on the child?

- Consider whether the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect (see definition of harm categories).
- Consider each individual child's health and development compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.

**Step 2:** Are the concerns attributable to parental care?

- Is the kind of care you would expect from a 'reasonable parent'?

**Step 3:** Can it be evidence that significant harm is likely?

- The level of parental engagement and understanding of concerns should be taken into account.
- Protective factors should be taken into account.
- Likelihood means that there is a "real, substantial risk" of the harm continuing.

**If YES to ALL steps 1- 3: Significant harm threshold is met**

**If NO to ANY of the steps 1-3: Significant harm threshold is not met.**