

## Booking an Initial Child Protection Conference and Threshold Discussions

The Team Manager uses the Significant Harm Checklist to inform threshold and decision-making in Strategy Discussions and Section 47 Enquiries.



If the Team Manager feels an Initial Child Protection Conference is necessary, the Team Manager phones the Safeguarding and Review Business Support Team on 01384813274 to identify who the duty Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is for that day. The Team Manager then has a **threshold discussion** with the duty Independent Reviewing Officer using the Significant Harm Checklist.



The duty Independent Reviewing Officer records the outcome of this threshold discussion on the child's file.



The Team Manager sends notification to the Safeguarding and Review Business Support Team to proceed to an Initial Child Protection Conference.



## **The 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 evidenced 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.**



## Process Map – Practice Requirements for Cases being Presented to Child Protection Conference

The Safeguarding and Review Business Support Team are notified of the intention to proceed to Initial Child Protection Conference at the point of the Strategy Meeting / Discussion taking place, or by day 3 of the Section 47 Enquiry. The Significant Harm Checklist is used to inform threshold and decision-making.

Details of meeting attendees are completed **at least one week prior** to an Initial Child Protection Conference taking place. Details should include specific email addresses and mobile telephone numbers for individual professionals. All contact details for family members need to be kept up to date on Liquid Logic to enable the Independent Reviewing Officer to contact the family prior to the Conference taking place.

The Child and Young Person's Assessment is the Social Work Report for the Initial Child Protection Conference. All Social Work Reports for Conference must have an outline plan for the child, young person, and their family. Any changes to the plan will be agreed at the Initial Child Protection Conference.

Team Managers include their comments and authorise the Social Work Report for Conference prior to the Report being shared with the family.

All Social Work Reports for Conference are shared with the family **5 working days before Conference**; and with the Independent Reviewing Officer **3 working days before Conference**.

The allocated Social Worker will attend the Initial Child Protection Conference; and the Social Worker who the child's case will be transferring to will also attend the Conference. This gives the child and their family the opportunity to meet the new Social Worker, enabling a smoother and more effective transfer to take place.

The first Core Group Meeting / Child in Need Meeting will take place straight after the Initial Child Protection Conference, giving the core group the opportunity to discuss in more details how they will work together to progress the plan, and to answer any questions parents / carers may have.

