**Consent withdrawn for Assessment – Practice Guidance**

Operations Manager First Response, Early Help Hub and EDT

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# Introduction and Purpose

# Context

When First Response receive a referral, and are unable to contact parents/carers within the 2 working day timescale and the child’s needs require further assessment under S17, the referral record will be progressed to C and F assessment and sent to the assessment team.

# Process

* 1. First Response Team Manager to provide a Management Oversight on the referral record advising why First Response were unable to obtain consent and rationale for the child/young person meeting the need for statutory support.
  2. Referral record to be progressed to C and F assessment and re assigned to Assessment Team LCS tray.
  3. If, when the Social Worker makes contact with the parent/carer, they do not give consent for an assessment under Section 17 and there is not reasonable cause to suspect the child/young person is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm (Section 47 of the Children Act 1989), the assessment will be cancelled. The Team Manager should record a Management Oversight case note with a clear rationale about why the assessment is being cancelled. The Social Worker should ensure that the parents/carers have been informed about other support services which they may wish to access.
  4. If mid-way through an assessment, the parent/carer withdraws consent, the information gathered to date should still be recorded and analysed in the C and F assessment form on LCS. The Social Worker should explain to parents that the information obtained is captured within an assessment form, similar to case notes and is still recorded on LCS. The assessment will only be sent to parents/carers unless parents agree to a specific agency being sent a copy of the document.
  5. Non-resident parents should receive a copy of the assessment, information about the other parent can be redacted, with the non-resident parent being advised of this but that all information in relation to the child/young person is included. The exception to this would be where evidence suggests contacting the non-resident parent would place the family at risk of significant harm. In this case a rationale would be provided by the Team Manager upon authorising the assessment.

# Quality Assurance

The numbers of cancelled C and F assessments will be reviewed monthly by the front door service, if the numbers increase significantly, a dip review will be completed. Cancelled C and F assessments will form part of the front door dip review cycle.