**Core Group Practice Standards**

The following **practice standards** relating to Core Groups meetings being held once Child Protection Care planning threshold has been agreed following the Initial Child Protection Conference held (ICPC):

* The Initial Core Group 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 4 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 within the meeting minutes and reflected in the Conference report.
* 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.