**Criteria for a Child Protection Plan**

The conference should consider the following questions when determining whether a child should be the subject of a Child Protection Plan

**Is the child at continuing risk of significant harm?**

The test should be that either:

* The child can be shown to have suffered ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of neglect or of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairments are likely  **or**
* Professional judgement, substantiated by the finding of enquires in this individual case or by research evidence, is the child likely to suffer ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development as a result of neglect or of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

**Category of Abuse from Working Together (2013) Appendix A**

**Physical Abuse**

Physical Abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Sexual Abuse**

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can children.

**Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. One a child is born neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to

* provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
* protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
* ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate carer givers)
* ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

**Emotional Abuse**

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on the children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child’s developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitations of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interactions. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Complaints Procedure**

Complaints about children and actions by individual staff should be dealt with within the complaints procedure of their agency. Complaints about the decision of a Child Protection Conference should be dealt with within the Local Safeguarding Board complaints procedure. Please ask the chair for details