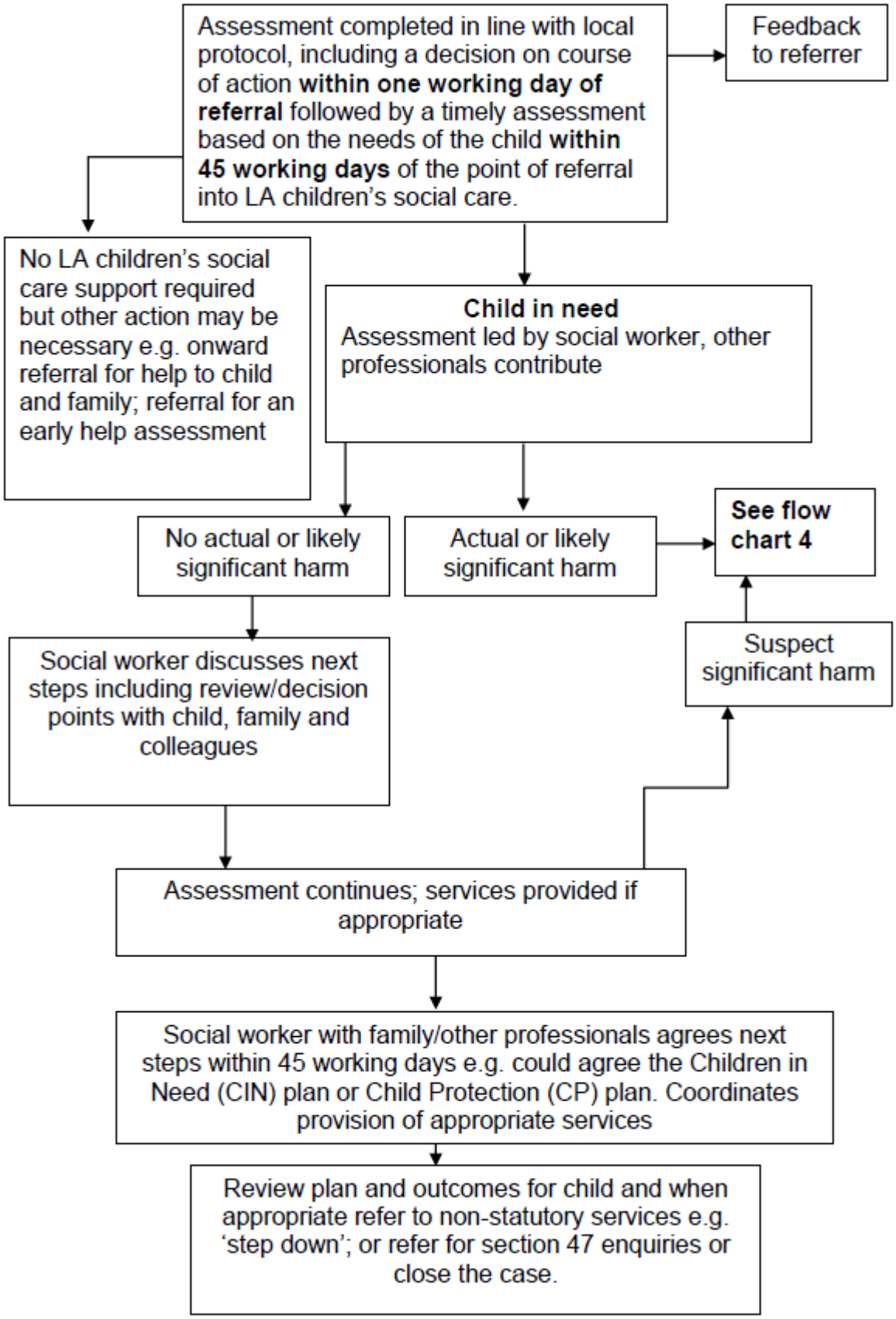
Flow chart 3: Action taken for an assessment of a child under the Children Act 1989


Assessment completed in line with local protocol, including a decision on course of action **within one working day of referral** followed by a timely assessment based on the needs of the child **within 45 working days** of the point of referral into LA children's social care.
Feedback to referrer
No LA children's social care support required but other action may be necessary e.g. onward referral for help to child and family; referral for an early help assessment
Child in need
Assessment led by social worker, other professionals contribute
No actual or likely significant harm
Actual or likely significant harm
See flow chart 4
Social worker discusses next steps including review/decision points with child, family and colleagues
Suspect significant harm
Assessment continues; services provided if appropriate
Social worker with family/other professionals agrees next steps within 45 working days e.g. could agree the Children in Need (CIN) plan or Child Protection (CP) plan. Coordinates provision of appropriate services
Review plan and outcomes for child and when appropriate refer to non-statutory services e.g. 'step down'; or refer for section 47 enquiries or close the case.