

## Guidance Note for all Practitioners and Managers

### 1. Guidance for Strategy Discussions/ Meetings

- Social Care will send in the form to request a strategy discussion and identify the Team Manager who will be responsible for holding the strategy discussion.
- The duty Sergeant (or nominated appropriate person) will then contact the team manager and agree a time when the strategy discussion can take place – note that they will not be calling you to hold the strat as they know you need the opportunity to get health on board. All health numbers are in the strat rooms available to you – you will need to call the health line to arrange the time with them too, but these should be available quickly.
- The team manager will then contact health and police at the arranged time and facilitate the three-way conversation by conference call.
- Strat discussion can then be held by conference call and a management decision made around a threshold for a s47 enquiry (not ICPC).

If you have the need for an urgent strategy discussion, for example, a child is at school awaiting going home and action needs to be taken swiftly, you will need to follow up the form with a call to them to alert to this being urgent. This is because all request for strategy discussions go to the same email box in the police which is overseen by a sergeant, so they will need our assistance to be made aware to prioritise the more urgent cases – **this call must only be made in urgent cases 0121 626 1622.**

If a Manager is not available, cannot be located, or is not logged in to their phone when they have arranged a strategy discussion, the PPU Sergeants will be calling the Head of Service for First Response and Targeted Services [Front Door] directly to resolve this. Please ensure that you are both available and logged in if you have requested a strategy discussion.

The PPU is set up in two halves for strategy discussions. All crime related, and urgent cases are work flowed to the Sergeants, of which there are three to cover the demand from Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall. For those strategy discussions deemed non-urgent/non-crime related (previously referred to as ICPC strategy discussions) the officers are not sergeants. PPU have ensured the relevant training has taken place with those individuals, the information and discussion is overseen by a Sergeant and they have delegated responsibility to hold these calls. This is the only way they are able to meet the demand of the three local authorities requiring strategy discussions. The wording in WT2018 states 'someone sufficiently senior to make a decision' and we are assured by them that they feel this has been met.

The PPU accept there has been delays in holding non-crime/non-urgent strategy discussions and have taken this measure to try to ensure that all strategy discussions are responded to and achieved within a working day – obviously those which are urgent cannot wait and you must call to alert them.