

# SECTION 47 ENQUIRY

## A PRACTITIONER GUIDE

### CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

#### THE HEADLINES

##### WHAT

The purpose of a s47 enquiry is to gather information from parents/carers, professionals and agencies and children and young people.

An essential feature of the s47 is the **evaluation of information and consequent management or risk**

##### WHEN

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

OR

following an Emergency Protection Order and/or Police Powers of Protection

##### THRESHOLD

Threshold criteria may be met at any time from the point of referral throughout the assessment process or at any time in an open case where concerns are highlighted



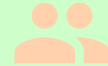
##### TIMESCALES

A s47 is a statutory assessment and needs to be completed and authorised within **15 working days**.



##### SHARING REPORTS

The s47 should be shared with parents/ carers and where appropriate young people. Make sure that where necessary information is redacted eg. health and police information.



##### OUTCOME

At Day 5 of the s47, a decision should be made as to what needs to happen next- ie. ICPC, brought forward CP or LAC Review

#### KEY MESSAGES

- Parents & Carers should be provided with a copy of the s47 and this should be shared with them face to face. If it is not safe or appropriate to do so, the rationale for this **MUST** be recorded on the child's file.
- Information may need to be manually redacted from a s47 report. for example information pertaining to a parent's mental health should not be shared with the other parent without explicit consent.
- s47 enquiries are to be completed within 15 working days
- By Day 5, a decision should be made as to whether the case will go to ICPC or if the RCPC/ LAC Review need to be brought forward

#### RIGHT CHILD RIGHT CARE

**REMEMBER: BEST PRACTICE WILL MEAN WE USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT HOW WE SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES TO REDUCE AND MANAGE RISK. A S47 ENQUIRY DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN WE NEED TO PROGRESS TO CONFERENCE.**

**WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT A FAMILY REDUCE RISK?**

**WHAT SUPPORT NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE? WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?**