

STRATEGY MEETINGS

A PRACTITIONER GUIDE

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

THE HEADLINES

WHEN

Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is **suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm**

Convened within a maximum of **3 working days** of a referral or concerns being raised

WHERE

Strategy **Discussions** can be held by **telephone** but **face to face meetings** are likely to be more effective in complex types of maltreatment or neglect.

WHO

Strategy Meetings & Discussions should be **quorate**.
As a minimum this includes representatives from CSC, Health and Police

PARENTS ARE NOT INVITED BUT MUST BE INFORMED



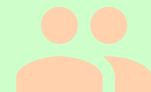
OUTCOME 1

The threshold for a s47 enquiry is not met. On an **open case** involvement will continue. On a **new case** we may complete an assessment, refer to early help or take no further action.



OUTCOME 2

Commencement or continuation of a Section 47 investigation without a police investigation



OUTCOME 3

Joint Police/ CSC enquiries/assessment under Section 47 eg. An allegation of assault

KEY MESSAGES

- Parents & Carers **MUST** be informed that a Strategy Meeting has been held and what has been agreed. If it is not safe or appropriate to do so, the rationale for this **MUST** be recorded on the child's file.
- Strategy Meetings/Discussions do not have to result in the initiation of a s47 enquiry.

RIGHT CHILD RIGHT CARE

IN LINE WITH OUR 'RIGHT CHILD RIGHT CARE' INITIATIVES, STRATEGY MEETINGS SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED AS A FORUM TO CONSIDER:

"WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO REDUCE OR MANAGE RISK FOR THIS CHILD AND HOW CAN WE SUPPORT THIS?"

"WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED (PROFESSIONALS, FAMILY MEMBERS, FAMILY FRIENDS)?"