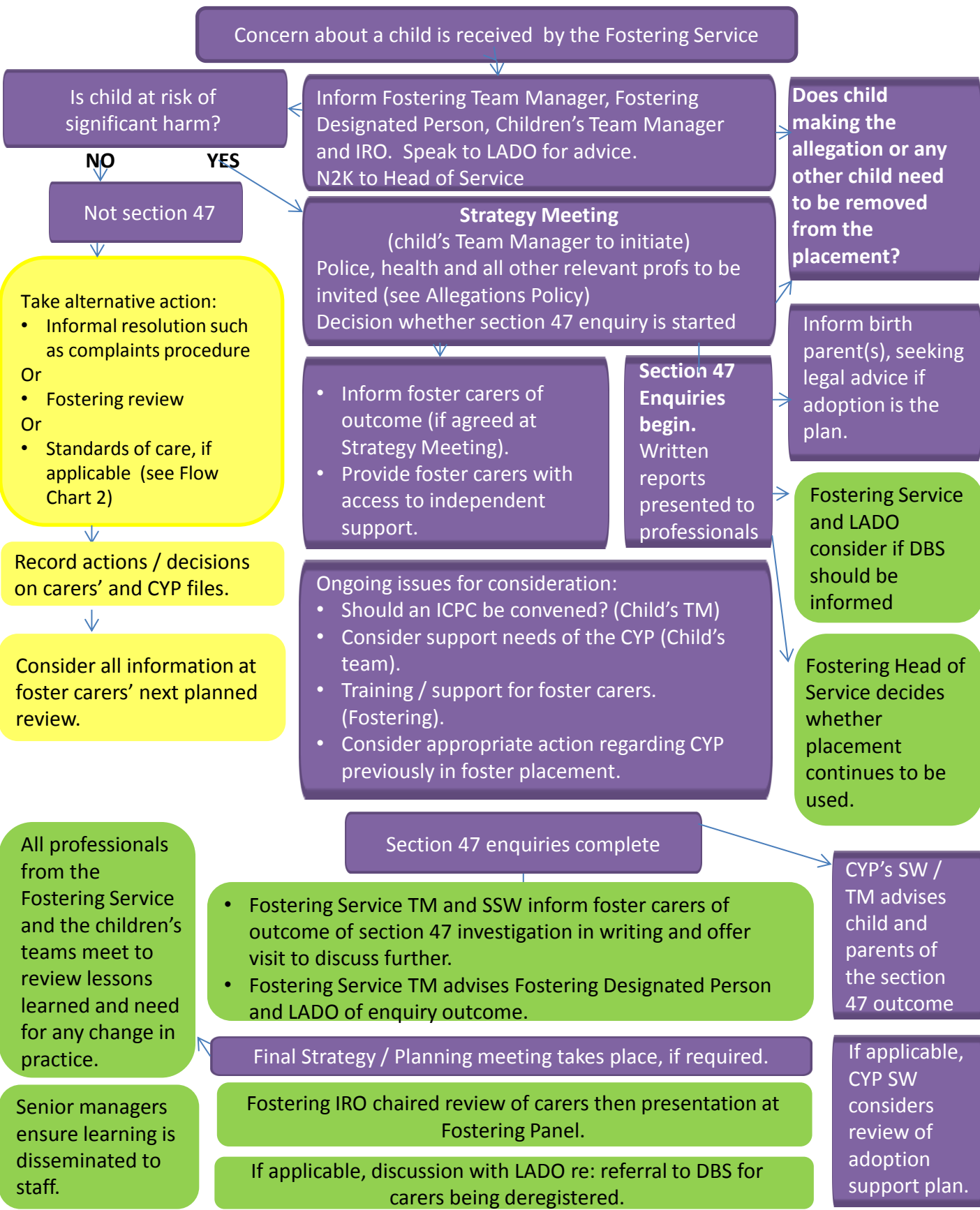


Flow Chart 1: Allegation of abuse when a child is living in a foster placement



Concern about a child is received by the Fostering Service

Is child at risk of significant harm?

NO YES

Not section 47

Take alternative action:

- Informal resolution such as complaints procedure
- Or
- Fostering review
- Or
- Standards of care, if applicable (see Flow Chart 2)

Record actions / decisions on carers' and CYP files.

Consider all information at foster carers' next planned review.

Inform Fostering Team Manager, Fostering Designated Person, Children's Team Manager and IRO. Speak to LADO for advice. N2K to Head of Service

Does child making the allegation or any other child need to be removed from the placement?

Strategy Meeting
(child's Team Manager to initiate)
Police, health and all other relevant profs to be invited (see Allegations Policy)
Decision whether section 47 enquiry is started

- Inform foster carers of outcome (if agreed at Strategy Meeting).
- Provide foster carers with access to independent support.

Section 47 Enquiries begin.
Written reports presented to professionals

Inform birth parent(s), seeking legal advice if adoption is the plan.

Fostering Service and LADO consider if DBS should be informed

Fostering Head of Service decides whether placement continues to be used.

Ongoing issues for consideration:

- Should an ICPC be convened? (Child's TM)
- Consider support needs of the CYP (Child's team).
- Training / support for foster carers. (Fostering).
- Consider appropriate action regarding CYP previously in foster placement.

Section 47 enquiries complete

- Fostering Service TM and SSW inform foster carers of outcome of section 47 investigation in writing and offer visit to discuss further.
- Fostering Service TM advises Fostering Designated Person and LADO of enquiry outcome.

CYP's SW / TM advises child and parents of the section 47 outcome

Final Strategy / Planning meeting takes place, if required.

All professionals from the Fostering Service and the children's teams meet to review lessons learned and need for any change in practice.

Senior managers ensure learning is disseminated to staff.

Fostering IRO chaired review of carers then presentation at Fostering Panel.

If applicable, discussion with LADO re: referral to DBS for carers being deregistered.

If applicable, CYP SW considers review of adoption support plan.