

Strategy Discussion/Meeting/Crib Sheet

Hello and Welcome, thank you for attending this strategy discussion. The purpose of this meeting is to decide whether a Section 47 enquiry under the Children Act 1989 is required and if so, to develop a plan of action for the Section 47 Enquiry.

We will do this by:

- Sharing and gathering all known information about the incident that brought us here today and other relevant information
- Agreeing the conduct and timing of any criminal investigation
- Deciding whether Section 47 enquiries should be initiated and how they will be carried out either single agency or Joint with the police.
- Coordinating and planning a Section 47 enquiry, including any medical assessment
- Considering what action is required to ensure the immediate safeguarding of the child(ren) including safe discharge from hospital where appropriate
- Determining what information will be shared with the family and how we are going to speak to the child(ren) alone
- Determining if legal advice is required.
- Considering how the concerns relate to all children within the family

1. Introduction/apologies

2. Chairperson checks family details for accuracy: names, DOB's, addresses, members of the household

3. Status of the meeting and confidentiality statement

4. Reason for the strategy discussion/meeting

5. Share available information including any agency reports. This should include any historical records held in respect of the child/family and from all agencies in attendance.

6. Decide whether section 47 enquiries should be initiated, and a social work assessment undertaken

7. Plan (where appropriate) the section 47 enquiry (single or joint), determining what further information is required about the children and family and how it will be obtained

8. Agree who should be interviewed, by whom, for what purpose and when. This should include the arrangements for the child(ren) to be seen alone by SCS so their wishes and feelings can be ascertained

9. Consider how enquiries by the Police, Health and SCS will be coordinated to minimise any distress to the family and to ensure the preservation of evidence. Consider and plan any medical investigations required and whether this is urgent or non-urgent.

10. Consider the range of diversity issues that may be applicable to this family and what additional supports may be required to enable them to engage fully with this process, in the interests of their children.

11. Consider the need for the child(ren) to be interviewed in accordance with Achieving Best Evidence and use of intermediary to be considered, if appropriate.

12. Determine what action is required immediately to safeguard (Safety Plan) and promote the welfare of the child(ren) and what services and support are required by the child/family

13. Determine what information from the strategy discussion/meeting will be shared with the family, unless such information sharing may place a child at increased risk of suffering significant harm or jeopardise police investigations into any alleged offence(s)

14. Consider the need for any legal advice

15. Determine how the actions from the strategy discussion/meeting will be reviewed

16. Consider whether the case meets the criteria for referral to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Where an Initial Child Protection Conference is to be convened this must take place within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion that made the decision to proceed to ICPC.

This guidance has been compiled alongside Working Together 2018, p41, Strategy Meetings.