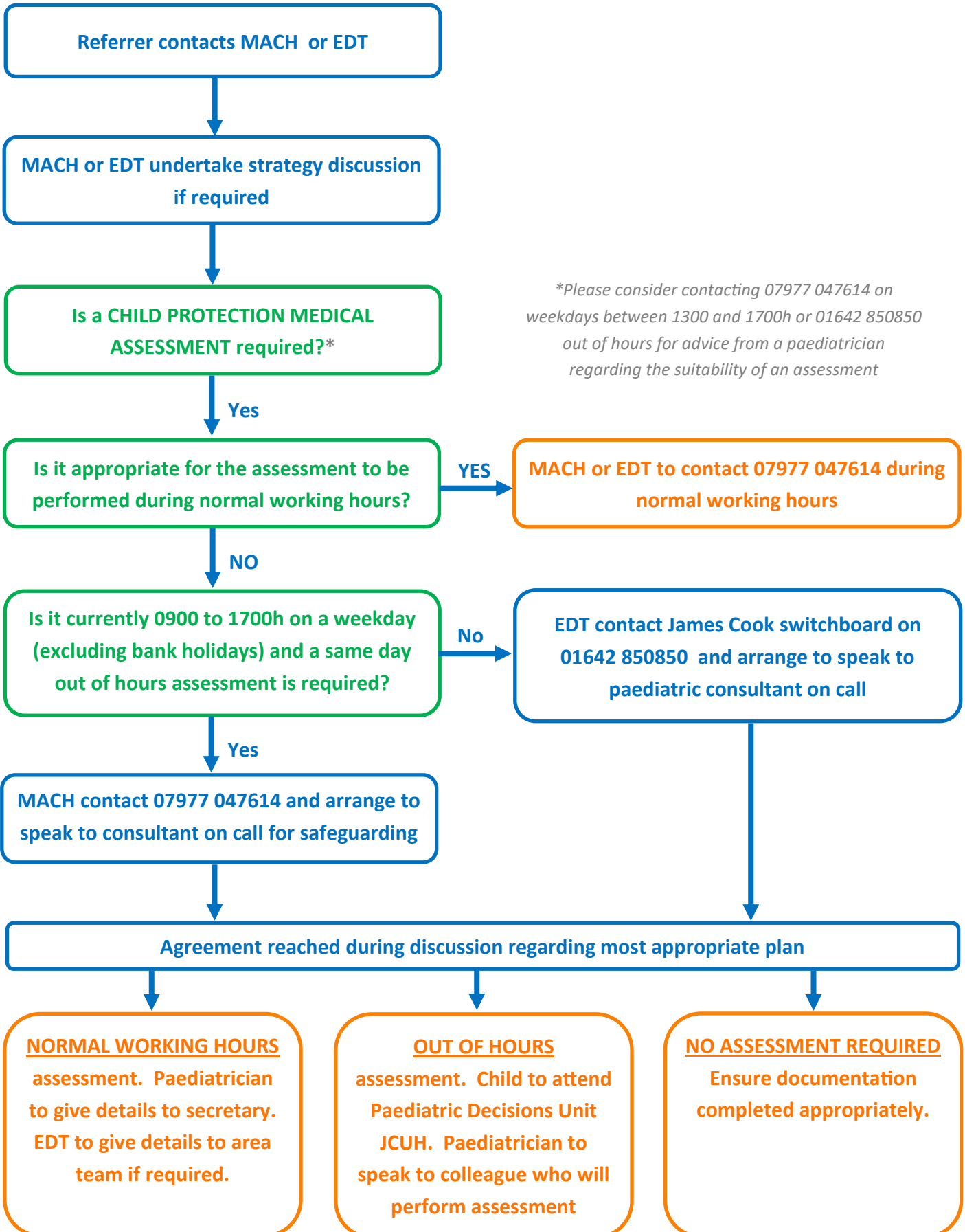


# South Tees Child Protection Medical Assessment Referral Pathway: OUT OF HOURS

*This pathway should be used to book a child protection medical assessment for children under the age of 18 years within the Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Local Authority areas on weekends, bank holidays and weekends 1700 to 0900h.*



## EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS child protection medical assessments

Wherever possible, child protection medical assessments should be performed during normal working hours or, if appropriate, during daytime weekend hours.

Current standards require child protection medical assessments to be performed within 24 hours of referral to the child protection medical assessment service. Most referrals can be addressed within this time frame.

If a child protection medical assessment is required out of hours, this must be agreed following a discussion between social care, a consultant paediatrician and, if necessary, other agencies. All discussions must be documented in the child's medical notes and incident reporting (Datix) forms should be completed for all emergency out of hours assessments.

Discussions must consider suitable safeguarding arrangements for the index child and any siblings.

Child protection medical assessments must **not** be used to assess children who are acutely unwell or who require urgent medical treatment for an illness or injury. These children should be referred to urgent medical services (GP, Urgent Treatment Centres, Emergency Department) as necessary with specific discussions about any safeguarding concerns.

On occasions, an emergency out of hours assessment may be required. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A non-mobile baby with suspected physical abuse.
- Children with physical injuries where the injury is very likely to not be visible in the next 24 hours.