Strategy discussion script

The strategy was carried out using SoS and Risk Harm Matrix.

This script has been designed to ensure that strategy discussions are consistent across the county.

Introductions

Team manager / SWC to open the strategy, introduce themselves and then go to each professional in turn for their introduction. They will then state the following:

Today we need to examine the information available to us and establish if we believe that there is sufficient information to suggest this/these child/children have suffered, are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Family composition / network

Team manager / SWC to explain who the strategy is in relation to, child's name, DOB and where they live. Then parents details, names, DOB and where they live. This should include step-parents and partners. Also, which adult is displaying the concerning behaviours. If there is wider family or friends who are involved with the children (the network), their information should also be shared here.

Name(s) of child(ren)	PID	DOB	ADDRESS	
All other household members/parents details	PID	DOB	ADDRESS	Relationship to child and do they hold PR?
Alleged Perpetrator's NAME	PID	DOB	ADDRESS	Relationship to child and do they hold PR?

Rationale for the strategy

Team manager / SWC to give details of the reason for the strategy. i.e. 'This strategy is being held due to a domestic abuse incident which occurred on this date. The incident involved…. the children were/were not witness to this'

The rationale needs to be specific and clearly demonstrates that threshold for a strategy has been met. Someone who does not know the child should be able to read this document and know what the issues are.

Reason/Purpose for Strategy Discussion:

Danger Statement

The Team Manager / SWC will then pass to the social worker to deliver the danger statement. **A good danger statement will include the date of the worries and an example of the worrying behaviour, as well as the impact on the child.**

Danger Statement

Agency information

For non-urgent strategies, the Team Manager / SWC explains that the social worker has completed a harm matrix, which will include what children's services know as well as the child and family's perspective. The Team Manager / SWC will be asking some specific questions to explore these worries and what is working well in relation to the worries, from each person's perspective.

The Harm Matrix can be shared on the screen as a starting point for this discussion, and the detail added to this. The Team Manager / SWC may need to remind people to slow down or help them to stay on track so that the detail can be recorded.

The Team Manager / SWC will go to each agency in turn for their information and use the prompts in the harm matrix to guide the discussion. This will include asking questions about:

Behaviour

Timespan (including how long the behaviour has been a worry and how often it has happened)

Severity (including the detail of what happened)
First incident
Worst incident
Last incident

Impact on the child

When exploring the detail of the incidents and impact on the children, the Team Manager / SWC may need to ask other questions to check out the evidence, e.g. 'how do you know the children were scared?', 'how do you know dad was drunk?'

Exploring the impact of the worrying behaviour on the children will help to separate harmful behaviour from any complicating factors.

For each worrying behaviour in the harm matrix, the Team Manager / SWC will also ask questions to each agency about times that things have gone well in relation to the worries, or the things that people (parents, the wider network of family, friends and professionals) have done to prevent further incidents or protect the children.

If partners are struggling to identify what is working well, we may need to ask them if there have *never* been any exceptions to the worries that they have.

Behaviour	Timespan	Severity			Impact on the child
		First	Worst	Last	

What's Working Well

Safety

What's Working Well

Safety

What's Working Well

Safety

Name	Department	Information
	Children's Services	
	Police	
	Health	
	School	
	GP	

Child's view – should come before safety goal and link in with what we are worried about and what is working well (safety)

The Team Manager / SWC asks the social worker what would be in the child's house of worries, house of happiness and house of dreams. Ideally this will be based on what the child has told us. Although in new cases this will be difficult, we can summarise what a child in this situation would want.

	Worries	**Happiness**	**Dreams**

Safety Goals

The Team Manager / SWC will invite the social worker to explain the safety goals.

The Team Manager / SWC will ask the social worker what the parent and child's goals would be

Safety Goals

Summary

The Team Manager / SWC will then summarise

- What is working well
- What are we worried about
- What are the complicating factors

The Team Manager / SWC needs to offer some analysis of this. This can be summarised into a couple of sentences.

Working Well	**Worried About**	**Complicating Factors**

Manager's Analysis

Scaling Question

The Team Manager / SWC will then ask the pre-prepared scaling question:

On a scale of 0-10, if 10 is that the risk is being well managed so that the children aren't being harmed and 0 is that professionals are so worried about … (children's names) that we need to take action straight away, where would you rate it?

It can be helpful to have individual scaling questions if there is more than one danger statement and safety goal.

The Team Manager / SWC asks each professional in turn for their score and the rationale for this score. The Team Manager / SWC will also ask the professionals what it would take for them to move up a point on the scale.

Getting the rationale for the score and what would need to happen to move it up one point is the most important part of the scaling. If partners say the child needs to be on a Child Protection plan as the thing that would move them up, ask partners to think about what *behaviour* would need to change to move up one on the scale.

Scaling Question

Name	Score	Reason

Decision for threshold for a S47

The Team Manager / SWC then asks each professional in turn for their view on threshold for S47. They should preclude this with the following statement:

A S.47 is a standalone assessment of whether sufficient evidence is present to suggest that children have suffered significant harm or at ongoing risk of significant harm.

Decision for Threshold

What needs to happen next

Actions that the Team Manager / SWC has collated during the meeting should now be listed. Professionals are asked if there are any other actions that need to be considered.

Actions need to be specific and include what needs to happen in order for the child(ren) to be safe

Action	Person Responsible