



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Guidance on Strategy Meeting
Agendas

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Introduction

This brief guidance note has been developed to assist social care practitioners plan for and structure a Strategy Meeting.

A Strategy Meeting (also known as a Strategy Discussion) is convened on receipt of information indicating that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.

The overarching purpose of a Strategy Meeting is to share proportionate and relevant information in a timely way in order to agree any immediate action needed to safeguard a child; to agree next actions/steps and to decide whether a **Section 47 Enquiry** is required.

Strategy Meetings might be convened to discuss:

- individual children;
- groups of children who may come into contact with an abuser;
- peer groups; or
- young people who may be linked with a context of concern.

Structure of the meeting

The following provides an exemplar structure for a Strategy Meeting:

1. Introduction

- The Chair asks all attendees to introduce themselves, and to clarify their role with the child (or children), their agency, and their contact details.
- The Chair notes any apologies.
- The Chair clarifies the rules and expectations for the meeting. For example, this should include a reminder about confidentiality and an explanation as to how the meeting will be recorded and how actions will be circulated.

2. Children or young people to be discussed

The Social Worker clarifies the child or children to be discussed and checks the accuracy of their details - including names, addresses, dates of birth, family members, ethnicities and whether they have any additional needs/EHCPs.

3. Reason for Referral/Strategy meeting

The Social Worker (or other relevant professional) shares the information of concern that has led to the Strategy Meeting. This should include details of specific incidents, dates, who was involved, and any known impact or harm.

4. Information sharing

The Chair invites each professional in turn to share relevant information from their agency records/contact with family/child(ren) and if relevant the 'context' of concern. Information shared should include:

- ❖ Concerns/harm

- ❖ Strengths/existing safety

5. Summary

The Chair summarises the information, categorising it into:

- ❖ Danger/harm and known impact on the child or children.
- ❖ Complicating factors
- ❖ Strengths/existing safety

6. Decision making

- Attendees consider if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
- In light of the information shared, attendees use a scaling question, where:

0 = There is evidence to suggest that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering serious and enduring/lasting harm

10 = While we may have worries that may/may not lead to further work and/or assessment with the child, the child is safe, there is no evidence that what has happened/is likely to happen will cause serious harm to the child's development.
- Attendees agree whether the threshold has been met to commence a S47 Child Protection Enquiry and if this is to be carried out jointly with the police or on a single agency basis - with reasons provided.
- The Chair confirms the resulting actions, including who will be responsible for each action, and by when they should be completed.