

## The Child Protection Process

When	Guidance Notes	Who
<b>Disclosure to Referral</b>	Think whole family, complete a family tree and explore who else might be at risk. You must make referrals in relation to any other child who may also be at risk. You should also consider vulnerable adults and make a referral if you suspect they are victims of abuse <a href="https://www.tsab.org.uk/report-abuse/">https://www.tsab.org.uk/report-abuse/</a>	<b>Referrer</b>
	Ensure the child knows that you must make a referral to children's Social Care and Police	
	Agree a means of discreet future contact with the child and young person	
	Complete a personal risk assessment with the child and a safety plan	
	Make a full record of the disclosure	
	Request made to each organisations internal ICT (or system manager) to arrange for the child's file is locked down internally with limited access only those working with the child	
	For children 16+ complete an assessment of risk of harm using the DASH tool	
	Make a referral to children's Social Care and Police (see section 8 of <a href="#">Making &amp; Response to a Referral</a> )	
	Ensure the immediate safety of the child (see Section 4 of <a href="#">Making &amp; Response to a Referral</a> (Ensuring Immediate Safety))	
<b>Upon receipt of the referral</b>	Once a referral has been accepted by a Local authority children's social care the lead profession role falls to the Social Worker. (See Section 14 of <a href="#">Making &amp; Response to a Referral</a> (Response to a Referral – Overview))	<b>Local Authority front door/Social Worker</b>
	In accordance with Working Together 2018 a Strategy Discussion must take place. Please see <a href="#">Strategy Discussion</a> for local guidance.  During the strategy discussion it is important to fully consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What action is required immediately to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child (including legal action if required)</li> <li>2. Agree the conduct and timing of any criminal investigation</li> <li>3. Decide whether Section 47 enquiries should be initiated and, as part of this, initiate an assessment</li> <li>4. Plan how the section 47 enquiry should be undertaken i.e. who will carry out what actions, by when and for what purpose.</li> <li>5. Determine what information from the strategy discussion 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)</li> <li>6. In the light of the race and ethnicity of the child and family consider how these should be taken into account and establish whether an interpreter will be required. It is important to ensure that the child has the interpreters name before the meeting to identify any potential conflict of interest. If the interpreter knows the child and their family an alternative interpreter must be provided.</li> <li>7. A decision to interview a child victim without the knowledge of the parent carer must be made at Strategy Meeting (see Section 7 of <a href="#">Section 47 enquiries</a> (Seeing and Interviewing Children during Enquiries))</li> </ol>	<b>Team Manager (either in the front door or safeguarding team)</b>

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	<p><b>In the event of conflict between the needs and wishes of the parents and those of the child, the child's welfare will remain of paramount consideration in any decision or action.</b></p> <p><u>Things to think about:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have agencies working with the child assessed that it is safe to carry out an investigation while the child is at home or does the child require immediate protection?</li> <li>2. Is it safe to discuss the concerns with parents or will this increase the risk?</li> <li>3. What information should be disclosed to parents, when and by whom?</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Legal Options</u></b></p> <p><u>Emergency protection order (EPO)</u> An emergency protection order is an order from the court that allows the child to be removed from home if the child is in imminent danger, and grants parental responsibility to the local authority. The court must be satisfied that there are extremely persuasive reasons to make the order. An emergency protection order lasts up to eight days, but can be extended once, for a maximum of seven days.</p> <p><u>Police Powers of Protection</u> Police powers of protection can be used without reference to a court, and is only used in emergency situations where a delay in an EPO may put a child at risk.</p>	
<p><b>Further Strategy Discussions</b></p>	<p>More than one strategy discussion may be necessary. This is likely to be where the child's circumstances are very complex and a number of discussions are required to consider whether/when to initiate section 47 enquiries as well as to plan further intervention as the case unfolds.</p>	
<p><b>Section 47 enquiries</b></p>	<p>Section 47 enquiries should be undertaken in accordance with Working Together and our local guidance (<a href="#">Section 47 enquiries</a>)</p> <p>The outcomes to the Section 47 may be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concerns of significant harm are not substantiated</li> <li>2. Where concerns are substantiated but the child is not judged to be continuing or be likely to suffer significant harm (<i>this may include those where immediate legal action has been taken to safeguard the child and therefore the Looked After procedures and child protection procedures do not need to run concurrently</i>).</li> <li>3. Where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.</li> </ol> <p>See local guidance: <a href="#">Section 47 enquiries</a></p> <p>For children at risk of honour based abuse, where concerns are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm an Initial Child Protection Conference should be convened. However, it is important that the Section 47 enquiry fully considers:</p>	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether the child needs immediate protection.</li> <li>2. Whether a Child Protection Plan can increase safety for the child enough so that they can continue to live with the perpetrators. The rationale for the decision and the safety plan must be clear to the child and those agencies working with him/her so that they understand their role.</li> <li>3. Whether risk is increased to the child if his/her parents are made aware of the concerns about honour based abuse.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Outcome of Section 47</b></p>	<p>Local Authority Social Workers are responsible for deciding what action to take and how to proceed following Section 47 enquiries. This normally takes place around 7-days after the Section 47 was initiated but no later than 15-days.</p> <p>If it is decided that a child protection conference is not required there may be other support services that are necessary, it is the Social Workers responsibility to determine what support may be helpful to the child. It is the responsibility of all agencies to contribute to the development of a plan, provide services as specified in the plan for the child and review the impact of services delivered as agreed within the plan.</p> <p>If the decision is not to proceed with a child protection conference then other practitioners involved with the child and family have right to request that Local Authority Children’s Care convene a conference if they have serious concerns that a child’s welfare may not be adequately safeguarded. However, in doing so the risks to the child from holding a child protection conference must be fully considered.</p>	
<p><b>ICPC</b></p>	<p>The initial child protection conference should take place within a maximum of 15 working days of the strategy discussion at which the section 47 enquiries were initiated (see local guidance: <a href="#">Initial Child Protection Conference</a>)</p> <p>By this stage it is expected that the child’s parents have a full understanding of the concerns leading to the Child Protection Conference and that these are outlined within a report and provided to them ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The ICPC guidance allows for parents to be excluded from the conference under the following circumstances;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicators that the presence of the parent may seriously prejudice the welfare of the child (see guidance section 3.5 for a full list)</li> </ul> <p>However, the guidance does not allow for parents to be excluded from the whole process and parents must be provided on how they can make their views known. Parents will also still receive a copy of all reports submitted to conference with the opportunity to have their views recorded. Therefore, deciding to progress to an Initial Child Protection Conference must only be made when the Social Worker has assessed the risk to the child and is satisfied that the child will not be threatened or coerced into silence. The child must not be placed at increased risk of harm by professionals disclosing the concerns of honour based abuse to the child’s family.</p>	