

6. What happens next? S47 Enquiries:

If a decision is taken to carry out further enquiries under Section 47 (see "What is the purpose of a Strategy Meeting") a Social Worker will be appointed to lead the enquiries. A section 47 enquiry is carried out by undertaking or continuing with an Assessment. The police, health professionals, teachers and other relevant professionals should support the local authority in undertaking its enquiries. The social worker must consult with other agencies involved with the child and family to obtain a fuller picture of the circumstances of all children in the household, identifying parenting strengths and any risk factors.

More Information:

Further information on Strategy and Section 47 Enquiries can be found by clicking on the following link: [Strategy Meeting](#)

Single Point of Contact Guidance

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Procedures for Multi Agency engagement in Strategy Meetings & S47 Enquiries are being piloted. Once finalised these will be included in the Child Protection Procedures on the Safeguarding Partnership Website.

7. Guidance & Legislation

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) provides guidance to ensure the statutory and legislative compliance of all agencies who are required to work together as part of a system of support to protect children and ensure they receive high quality and effective support as soon as it is needed. Working Together 2018 states "Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm there should be a strategy discussion." As a minimum the Social Worker, Health and Police should be involved in the Strategy Meeting. Other agencies may be invited depending on the nature of the individual case.

2. What is the Purpose of a Strategy Meeting?

Once it is determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm a Strategy Meeting should be held so that information can be shared to determine the child's welfare and plan rapid future action, if required. All attendees should be sufficiently senior to support decision making regarding whether to initiate further enquiries. These further enquiries are called [Section 47 Enquiries](#).

3. What Happens at a Strategy meeting?

The [Strategy Meeting](#) is a multi-agency meeting, convened and chaired by the relevant locality Children's Social Care Team Manager, based in the area where the child lives. Agencies can choose to attend Strategy Meetings in person or via tele-conference using dial-in facilities. Agencies should provide information regarding their involvement with the child/family and any concerns they may hold regarding the safety and welfare of the child(ren). All contributions to the meeting will help to inform the agreed next steps and actions to be taken.

4. Timescales

A Strategy Meeting should be held as soon as possible, bearing in mind the needs of the child, and must take place within 2 working days of child protection concerns being identified.

If the assessed risk of harm to the child is considered to be imminent and/or significant, the meeting should be convened on the same day as the receipt of the referral. Where the concerns are particularly complex (eg fabricated illness/organised abuse) the meeting must be held within a maximum of five working days, but sooner if there is a need to provide immediate protection.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- All agencies are responsible for:
- Receiving and responding (within required timescale) to requests for agency attendance at or information to be provided to Strategy meetings.
 - Carrying out checks within the agency to determine practitioner involvement in and agency knowledge of the child and family.
 - Making sure the relevant practitioner either attends or contributes relevant agency information.
 - Contributing as required, to decisions regarding next steps and any S47 Enquiry.

