



Assessment, Referral & Investigation: Working Together with Children & Families Service & Police



September 2014



@LSCB_Brighton

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk



Child Protection

- MASH (from Sept 2014) in Brighton & Hove
- Five CPT teams across the county
- Two Teams in East Sussex
- Based at Hastings and Eastbourne
- One at Brighton, covering B & H (SIU)
- Two in West Sussex
- Based at Crawley and Littlehampton
- Officers will have DC status or being going through their training to gain this.



SIU / MASH – Safeguarding Investigation Unit and Multi Agency Service Hub

- Investigate all aspects of Child Protection.
- In conjunction with Children's Social Work.



SEXUAL



NEGLECT



EMOTIONAL



PHYSICAL

Pathway for Referral Advice

Early Help Hub – 01273 292632

earlyhelp@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

MASH – 01273 290400

MASH@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Assessment Service – 01273 295920

assessment@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Police Team – 01273 404041

mash.siu-brighton@sussex.pnn.police.uk



Referring to MASH

What makes a good referral?

- Cause for concern/reason for the referral
- What the child said
- Child's current location and emotional and physical condition
- Basic info - names, d.o.b's and gender of all children and other household members, first language, ethnicity, contact details.
- Who has parental responsibility?



Referring to MASH - What makes a good referral?

- Any need for an interpreter, signer or other communication aid
- Any special needs of children or household members
- Background information relevant to referral - positive aspects of carers, previous concerns, pertinent parental issues (e.g mental health, domestic violence, substance misuse, attitude to staff)
- Any other agencies involved now or previously
- Information about parental knowledge of / consent to referral



Type of Referral

Low Risk Concerns

- a child's needs may not be consistently met
- improvement may be desirable but there are no high or immediate risks present
- a child and the parent or carer are coping

Children in Need

Possible TAF (Team Around Family) / CAF
(Common Assessment Framework)



Type of Referral

Medium Risk Concerns

- a reasonable standard of and development is unlikely to be maintained without family support
- a child may move into the high priority category without some support
- there are clear factors which indicate that the situation will deteriorate without support.

Child in Need of Protection/Child in Need

Possible TAF/CAF



Type of Referral

High Risk Concerns

- there is a serious concern about the care or health or development of a child, or where a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm
- there is a serious family dysfunction, a child is beyond control, no person has or is able to exercise parental responsibility, or the child has been abandoned or rejected

Child in Need of Protection



Referral – Possible Responses

- Screening - all referrals
- No further action – possible TAF/CAF
- Signposting
- Initial Assessment - Child to be seen and spoken to -
May lead to either of the above, or allocation for service provision / further Assessment, or.....
- Strategy Discussion to plan enquiries
- Section 47 Enquiries – Child Protection Investigation –
(see next slide)
- Immediate action to protect the child.
- Child Protection Conference
- Referrers should receive feedback on outcomes of assessments / investigations
- Relevant professionals should be updated on outcomes and consulted / informed as appropriate throughout



Section 47 Enquiries – Child Protection Investigation

- Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on the Local Authority to make enquiries into the circumstances of children considered to be at risk of “significant harm” and, where these enquiries indicate the need, to undertake a full investigation into the child’s circumstances.
- “Harm” means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development, including for example impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.



Section 47 Enquiries: Role of Social Worker

- Undertake emergency action to secure the safety of the children.
- Ascertain the facts of the situation and assess the capacity of family to safeguard child.
- Visit child/family, this is often with the Police although can be single agency.
- Check the child records/Child Protection Register.
- Undertake enquiries with relevant agencies.
- Recommendations for further actions ie; CP conference, legal action.



Key Principles

- Child's safety and welfare are paramount
- Child's wishes and feelings should be sought
- Safeguarding and protecting is a shared responsibility - 'Working Together'
- Partnership with families
- Non-discriminatory
- Children should be brought up in their own family and community



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Section 47 Enquiries: Role of Police Officer

- Check Police information systems
- Attendance @ Strategy Meetings/ Discussion
- Conduct Joint Investigation
- Interview of child or young person – Q&A / ABE
- Arrange medical.
- Arrest
- Interview of suspect.
- CP Conference
- Compilation of Case file in conversation with CPS.
- Attendance at Court.



Sharing of Information, PNC, PND, NICHE & VISOR



Achieving Best Evidence ABE

- **T.E.D** (Tell Me, Explain, Describe).
- **5WH** (What, Where, When, Why & How).
- **Minimal** questioning to gain the **Maximum** information.



CP Medicals

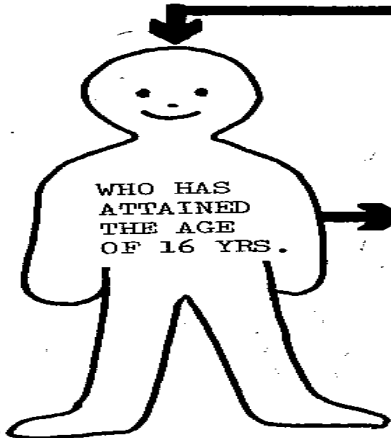
- CP medicals can take place at the early stages of an investigation, relating to Sexual, Physical and Neglect cases.
- Police / CFS need medical report / notes. Doctor to explain why a bruise or mark is relevant and why they think it can / cannot have happened as described, this needs to be factual and provide clear opinion re whether the injury is / is not accidental based on the information provided.



CRUELTY

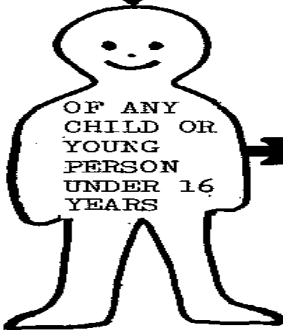
S1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933

AN OFFENCE IS COMMITTED BY ANY PERSON



AND HAS THE

Custody	PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR PERSON LEGALLY LIABLE TO MAINTAIN HIM
Charge	ANY PERSON TO WHOSE CHARGE THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY THE PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
Care	ANY PERSON HAVING ACTUAL POSSESSION OR CONTROL



AND WILFULLY

Assaults, Ill-Treats, Neglects, Abandons, or Exposes Him

OR CAUSES OR PROCURES SUCH TREATMENT

INCLUDING INJURY TO OR LOSS OF SIGHT, OR HEARING, OR LIMB, OR ORGAN OF THE BODY, AND ANY MENTAL DERANGEMENT

IN A MANNER LIKELY TO CAUSE HIM UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR INJURY TO HEALTH







Options to Protect the Child

- Child remains in the home with agreement of the family, setting out conditions to safeguard child.
- Child stays with friends or family with parent or guardian agreement.
- Child placed with foster carer with parent or guardian agreement (S.20 Children Act 1989).
- **Emergency Protection Order** (S.44 Children Act 1989) - Lasts up to 8 days, renewable for a further 7 days.
- **Interim Care Order** (S.38 Children Act 1989) - Lasts up to 28 days. Is renewable. Requires 3 days notice of hearing.

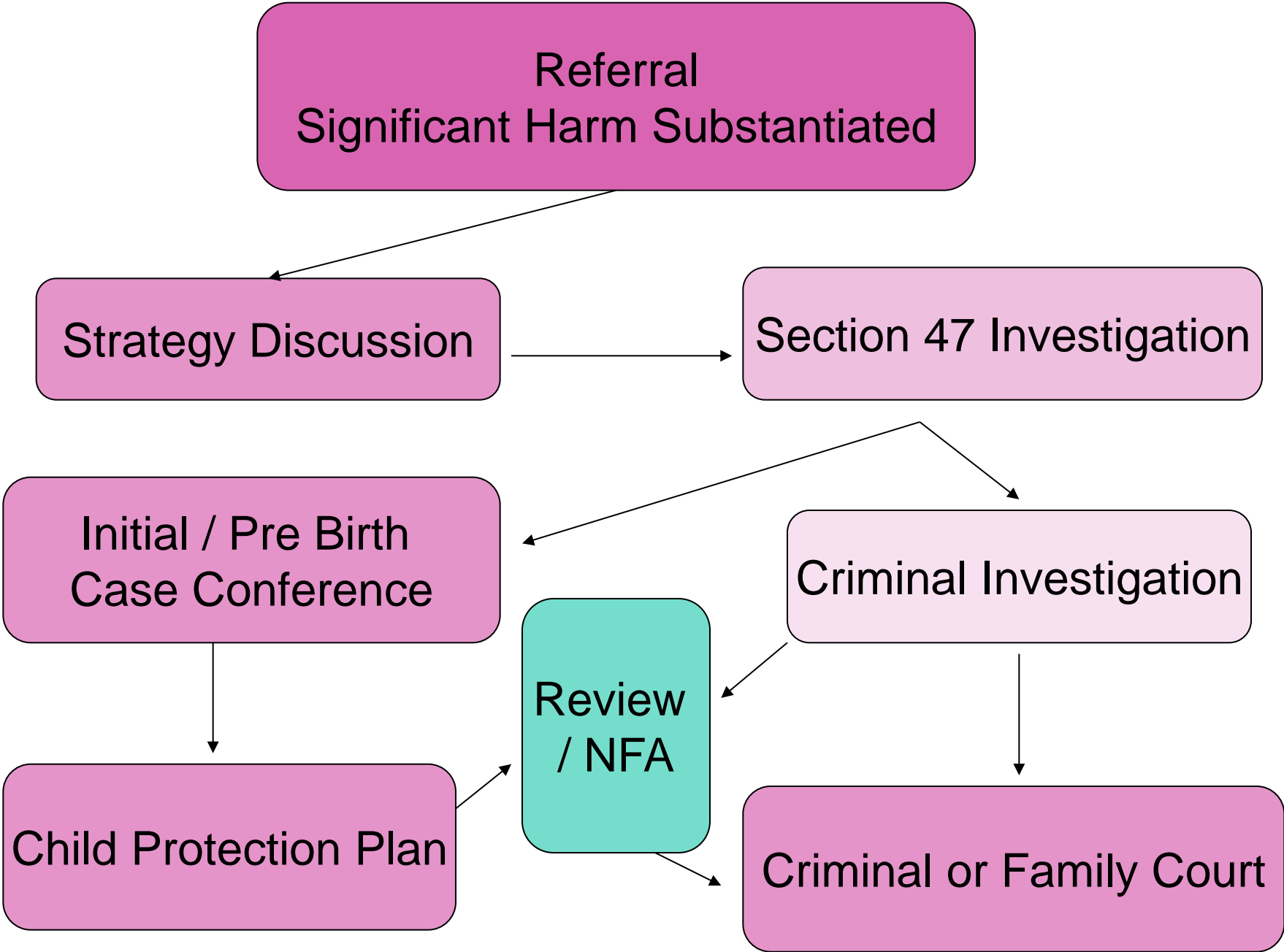


Options to Protect the Child (cont.)

Police Protection:

- NOT an **Order**, it is a Police power*, that can be used by any Police Officer.
- *(Power is provided by Sec 46 Children Act 1989) (Immediate Risk)
- Must then inform Local Authority, who have the duty to accommodate.
- Does Not provide a power of entry, however Police Powers under PACE would be used “to save life and limb”
- Will last for 72 hours.





Internet Cyber Abuse

- will have film clip



CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS:

- ◆ History of abuse or neglect
- ◆ Parental substance misuse / involvement in criminality
- ◆ Estranged from family

If you have concerns about a child being sexually exploited, **please submit an MOGP1 and intelligence log, quoting 'Operation Kite'**



Sussex Police

Serving Sussex

www.sussex.police.uk

For information and advice contact your local MISPER Coordinator or Child Protection Team



Police Terminology

- Arrest.
- Bail.
- CPS Advice.
- Charge.
- Conviction.
- Sex Offender Registration (MAPPA)
- Appeal.



Any Questions?





Brighton & Hove

LSCB

local **safeguarding**
children board

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk

Email: LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk



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