

Siddal Primary School Child Protection Procedures

2017/18



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Introduction

These procedures should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The aims of these procedures are:

- To clarify roles and responsibilities of everyone within our school in relation to safeguarding
- To have clear procedures that are followed when a child is identified as needing more than universal services can provide

Section 1 – Pupil Information

1.1 Our school will endeavour to keep up to date and accurate information in order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them the school requires accurate and up to date information regarding:

- names and contact details of persons with whom the child normally lives
- names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above)
- emergency contact details (if different from above), ensuring that should the person(s) with parental responsibility be unable to collect this person could collect the child and keep them safe until either the person(s) with parental responsibility is available or a more suitable arrangement is made
- details of any persons authorised to collect the child from school (if different from above)
- any relevant court orders in place including those which affect any person's access to the child (e.g. Child Arrangement Order, Contact Order, Care Order, Injunctions etc.)
- if the child is or has been subject to a Child Protection Plan
- if the child is or has been subject to Early Intervention Single Assessment (EISA) or Child In Need (CIN) processes.
- If the child is a Child Looked After (CLA)
- name and contact detail of G.P.
- any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child

The school will collate, store and agree access to this information, ensuring all information held electronically is stored securely with due regard to meeting data protection and safeguarding requirements. All pupil information is stored securely on our SIMS electronic management system and CPOMS system.

1.2 When a child leaves the school their child protection file is transferred to their new school as soon as possible and separately from the main pupil file. This is usually done with a face-to face meeting unless the child moves out of area, if this is the case the file is transferred by recorded delivery and signed for, and is clearly marked confidential. A receipt is obtained which states when the file was transferred and who delivered and received the file.

1.3 The school retains a copy of the child's chronology and any documents that the school created e.g. risk assessment in an archive until the child reaches the age of 25 years or 35 years if the child was subject to Child Protection procedures. The receipt of the transferred file is kept alongside this archive. Any archived files are stored securely in the same way as an active file.

Section 2 - Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Our Board of Trustees will ensure that:

- there is a named Safeguarding Governor
- the school has an effective child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and the policy is available publically via the school website or other means
- the school has a staff behaviour policy or code of conduct and that this is provided to all staff and volunteers on induction
- the school operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children; and that any panel involved in the recruitment of staff has at least one member who has undertaken the Safer Recruitment Training
- the school has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures.
- e-safety policy and procedures are in place and training and support is provided for staff and pupils to ensure that there is a good understanding of child protection issues related to electronic media.
- a senior member of the school's leadership team is appointed to the role of DSL,
- staff including the Acting Head Teacher undertake appropriate child protection training which is updated annually

- they remedy, without delay, any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding child protection arrangements;
- a governor is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the executive head teacher.
- where services or activities are provided on the school premises by another body, the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection and liaises with the school on these matters where appropriate.
- they review their policies and procedures annually

2.2 Our Acting Head Teacher will ensure that:

- the policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body or Proprietor are fully implemented, and followed by all staff;
- sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated safeguarding lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings and contributing to the assessments of children.
- there are arrangements in place for Safeguarding Supervision for the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)
- all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle blowing policies
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead is supported in providing a contact for the school to provide a report and attend Initial Child Protection Case Conferences, Reviews and Children Looked After Reviews out of school term time when needed
- allegations regarding staff or any other adults in the school are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), as set out in the Managing Allegations procedure.
- individuals are referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service (cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child);

2.3 Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) as stated in KCSIE (2016) will ensure that they:

Manage referrals

- Refer cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care (MAST);
- Support staff who make referrals to MAST;
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern;
- Support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;
- Support the Head to refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police.

Work with others

- Liaise with the Acting Head Teacher to inform them of issues especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
- As required, liaise with the "case manager" (as per Part four of KCSIE) and the designated officer (LADO) for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member or volunteer); and
- Liaise with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies. Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff.

Undertake training

The DSL (and any deputies) will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated at least every two years. They will also undertake Prevent awareness training.

In addition to the formal training, their knowledge and skills will be refreshed at regular intervals, as required, but at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role (*this will be done by attending the termly DSL Network Meetings and by attending appropriate Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency training and other relevant training and/or conference opportunities*) so they:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments;
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- Ensure each member of staff, especially new and part time staff has access to and understands the school's or college's child protection policy and procedures;
- Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers;
- Are able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;

- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.

Raise Awareness

- The DSL will ensure that the school or college's child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately;
 - Ensure the school or college's child protection policy is reviewed annually the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this;
 - Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this; and
 - Link with the local LSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding.

Availability

- During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will always be available for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
- There will also be a DSL or deputy available to be contacted out of hours/out of term for urgent enquiries such as an Initial Child Protection Case Conference.

2.4 All staff and volunteers will:

- read and sign to say that they understand and will fully comply with the school's policies and procedures
- read and sign to say that they understand Part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2016)
- attend annual whole school training and other appropriate training identified
- identify concerns as early as possible and provide help, to prevent concerns from escalating and identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm
- provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- be aware that they may be asked to support a Social Worker to take decisions about individual children
- inform the designated safeguarding lead of any concerns about a child at the earliest opportunity
- inform the head of any concerns regarding an adult within school at the earliest opportunity
- inform the Chair of Governors of any concerns regarding the head at the earliest opportunity

Section 3 – Child Protection Procedures

3.1 Teachers and other adults in school are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs which indicate that a child may be suffering significant harm. The relationships between staff, pupils, parents and the public which foster respect, confidence and trust can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or school staff being alerted to concerns. Definitions of the four main types of abuse are within the Safeguarding Policy.

All staff will also have an awareness of specific safeguarding issues as referred to in the Safeguarding Policy, in particular Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Attendance and Children Missing from Education (CME). Staff will also be aware that behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting put children in danger.

All staff will also be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Staff are clear as to the school or college's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse.

3.2 It is **not** the responsibility of the school staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All members of staff however, have a duty to recognise concerns and maintain an open mind. Accordingly all concerns regarding the welfare of pupils will be recorded and discussed with the designated safeguarding lead (or the deputy DSL in the absence of the DSL) prior to any discussion with parents.

If children are placed in any form of Alternative Provision for any part of their school day, this school will seek reassurance that the same child protection procedures will be followed and that any concerns will likewise be reported to our Designated Safeguarding Lead and their counterpart within the Alternative Provision.

Concerns that staff must immediately report:

- any suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play
- any explanation given which appears inconsistent or suspicious
- any behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm (e.g. worrying drawings or play)
- any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment
- any concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect
- any significant changes in a child's presentation, including non-attendance

- any hint or disclosure of abuse from any person
- any concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. living in a household with children present)
- any potential indicators of CSE
- any potential indicators of FGM
- any potential indicators of Radicalisation
- any potential indicators of living in a household with Domestic Abuse

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- any hint or disclosure of abuse from any person
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- any potential indicators of CSE
- any potential indicators of FGM
- any potential indicators of Radicalisation
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3.3 Responding to Disclosure

Disclosures or information may be received from pupils, parents or other members of the public. School recognises that those who disclose such information may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Accordingly all staff

will handle disclosures with sensitivity. Pupils with communication difficulties will be supported to be able to express themselves with a suitably qualified and experienced member of staff (with reference to pupil's needs).

Such information cannot remain confidential and staff will immediately communicate what they have been told to the designated safeguarding lead and make a contemporaneous record.

Principles:

Staff will not investigate but will, wherever possible, elicit enough information to pass on to the designated safeguarding lead in order that s/he can make an informed decision of what to do next.

Staff will:

- listen to and take seriously any disclosure or information that a child may be at risk of harm
- try to ensure that the person disclosing does not have to speak to another member of school staff
- clarify the information
- try to keep questions to a minimum and of an 'open' nature e.g. using TED technique – 'Tell me, Explain to me, Describe to me....'
- try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise
- not express feelings or judgements regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child
- explain sensitively to the person that they have a responsibility to refer the information to the designated safeguarding lead, children need to know that staff may not be able to uphold confidentiality where there are concerns about their safety or someone else's
- reassure and support the person as far as possible
- explain that only those who 'need to know' will be told
- explain what will happen next and who will be involved as appropriate
- record details including what the child has said, in the child's words on a 'Record of Concern'/'Cause for Concern' form
- record the context and content of their involvement, and will distinguish between fact and opinion

3.4 Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy DSL in their absence)

Following any information raising concern, the designated safeguarding lead will consider:

- any urgent medical needs of the child
- whether the child is subject to a child protection plan
- discussing the matter with other agencies involved with the family
- consulting with appropriate persons e.g. Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) and/or Safeguarding Advisor for Education
- the child's wishes

Then decide:

- to talk to parents, unless to do so may place a child at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk
- whether to make a child protection referral to Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately

OR

- not to make a referral at this stage
- if further monitoring is necessary
- if it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment (e.g. Early Intervention Single Assessment - EISA) and/or make a referral to the Early Intervention Panel and/or to other services..

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented and the process depicted in the flowchart in Appendix 2 will be followed. All referrals to Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) will be followed up in writing using the Calderdale Request for Service/Referral Form and these referrals will always be kept on file irrespective of the outcome.

If the DSL is of the view that concerns are not being responded to appropriately then these concerns will be escalated appropriately until the DSL feels that some resolution has been achieved. Initial escalation would be to the Team Manager, but need progressing to the Service Manager if felt appropriate.

3.5 Action following a child protection referral

The designated safeguarding lead or other appropriate member of staff will:

- make regular contact with the social worker involved to stay informed

- wherever possible, contribute to the strategy discussion
- provide a report for, attend and contribute to any subsequent child protection conference
- if the child or children are made the subject of a child protection plan, contribute to the child protection plan and attend core group meetings and review conferences
- where possible, share all reports with parents prior to meetings
- where in disagreement with a decision made by Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) e.g. not to apply child protection procedures or not to convene a child protection conference, follow the guidance in the West Yorkshire Consortium Safeguarding Children Procedures 8.2 Resolving Professional Disagreements
- where a child subject to a child protection plan moves from the school or goes missing, immediately inform Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST)

3.6 Recording and monitoring

Accurate records will be made as soon as practicable and will clearly distinguish between observation, fact, opinion and hypothesis. All records will state who is providing the information, the date and time, information will be recorded in the child's words where possible and a note made of the location and description of any injuries seen, if this is a paper record than this should be signed. An example of how this is done can be found in Appendix 1.

The DSL ensures that the method for other members of staff or volunteers passing on concerns or information is always adhered to as consistency is paramount in ensuring that nothing gets missed. All actions will also show what action is being taken as a result of the concern and the outcomes of this action.

All documents will be retained in a 'Child Protection file', separate from the child's school file. This will be locked away and only accessible to the head teacher and the DSL if a paper file. If an electronic file e.g. using CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System), it will be stored securely with appropriate levels of limited access. These records will be transferred to any school or setting the child moves to, clearly marked 'Child Protection, Confidential, for attention of Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection,' and a receipt of this transfer will be retained. The chronology from the file and any key documents generated by the school will then be retained by the school until the child's 25th birthday or for 40 years from the date of birth of the youngest sibling within a family if they are or have been subject to Child Protection procedures.

If the child goes missing from education or is removed from roll to be educated at home, any child protection file will be transferred and sent to the Education Welfare Service.

Appendix 1

Safeguarding Concern Form

This form should be passed ONLY to one of the designated safeguarding leads (CHo, SA & CHa) and should be treated as CONFIDENTIAL

Please give a brief outline of your concern considering the following: record as accurately as possible what the child said/happened; do not make assumptions/guess if you are unsure what was said/happened; if your concern relates to a mark/bruise please indicate on the back of this page where it was observed.

Date of Incident: Time of incident: am/pm

Name of child concerned: Other children involved (if any):

.....

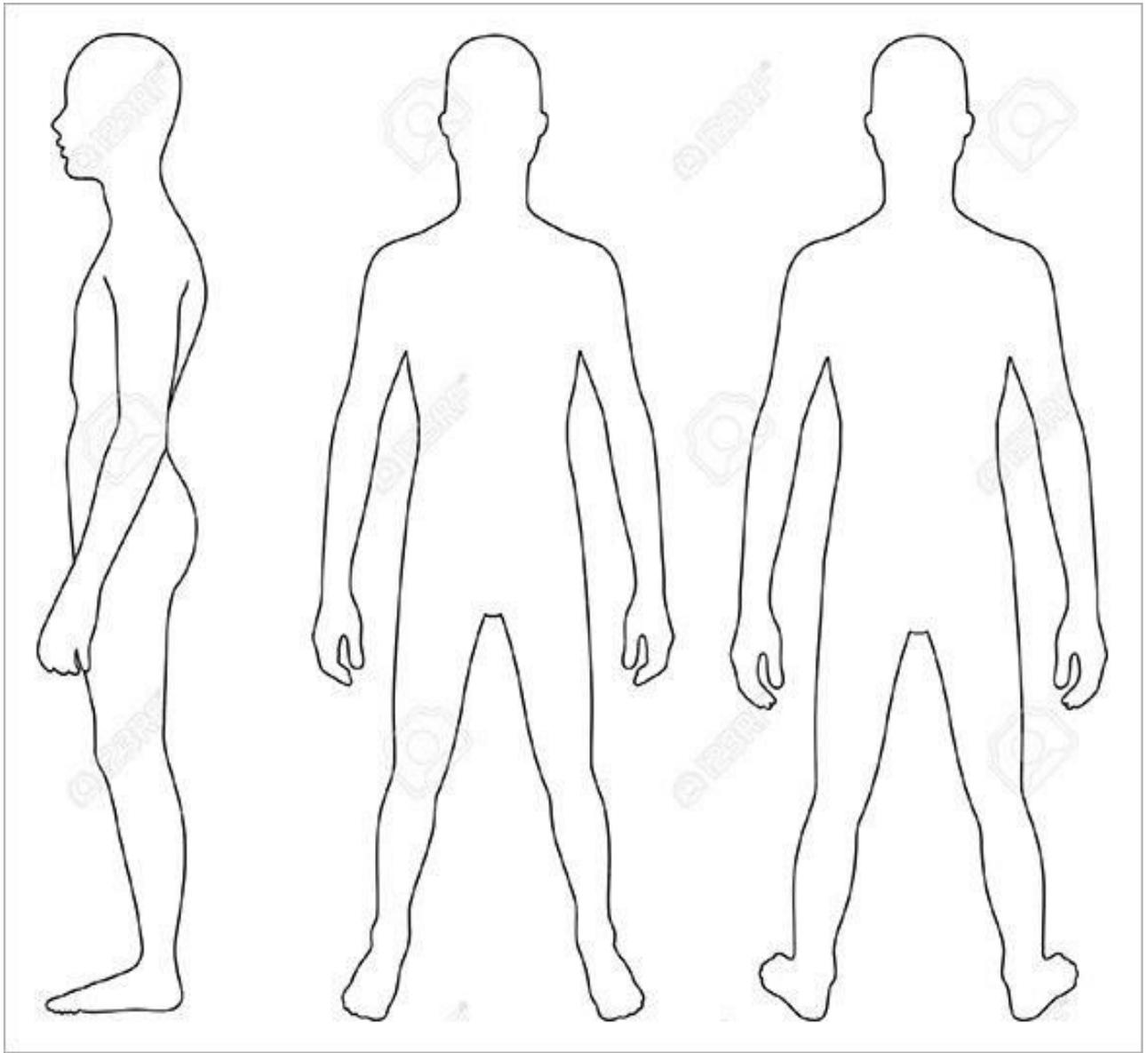
Witnessed by:..... (staff/child/other)

**Please CLEARLY indicate below where the mark was observed and give any further details
in the space below about the appearance of the mark (size/colour etc)**

Side

Front

Back

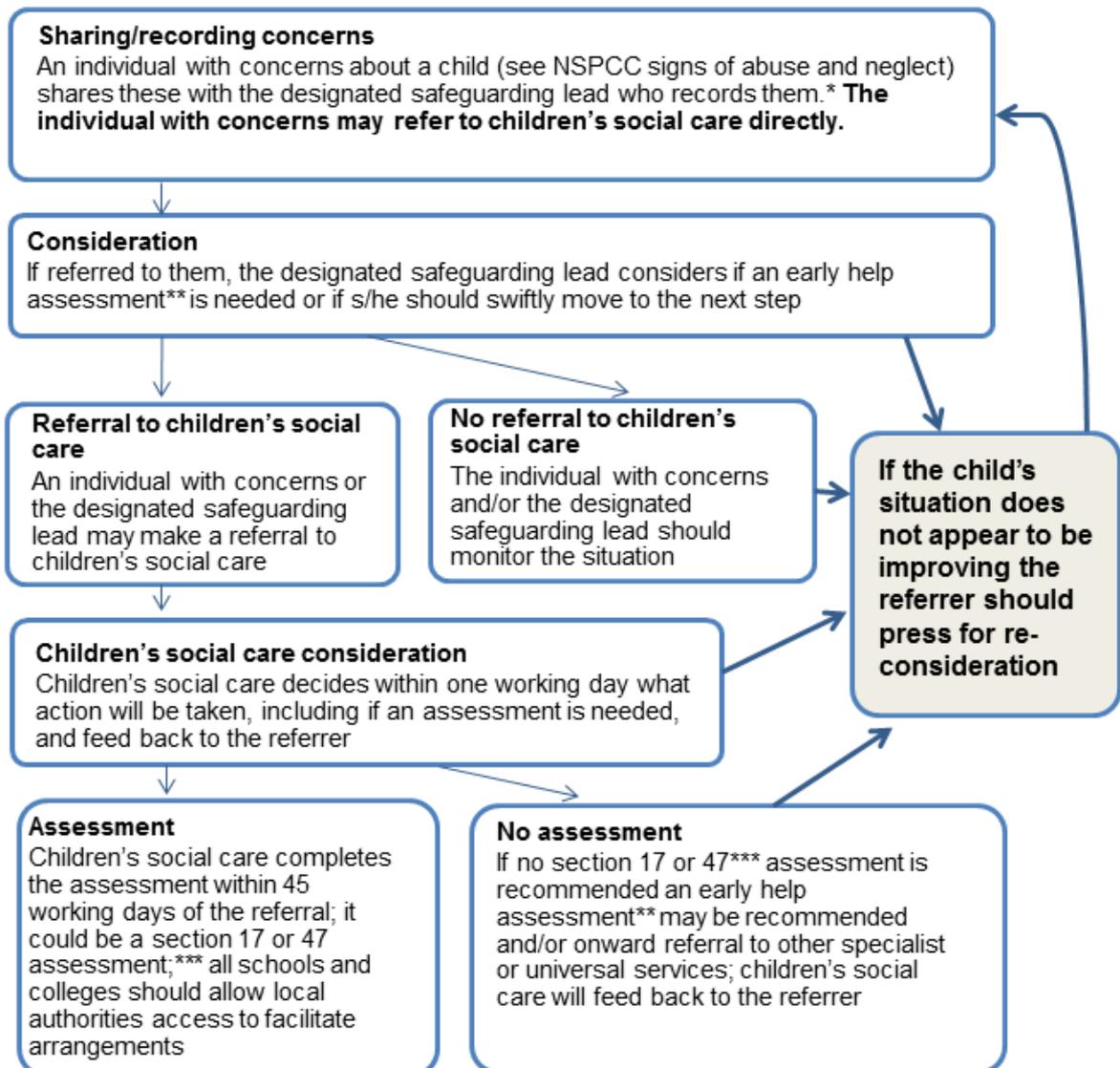


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Appendix 2

Action when a child has suffered or is likely to suffer harm

This diagram illustrates what action should be taken and who should take it when there are concerns about a child. If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately. **Anybody can make a referral.**



* In cases which also involve an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see part four of this guidance which explains action the school or college should take in respect of the staff member

** Where a child and family would benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency (eg, education, health, housing, police) there should be an inter-agency assessment. These assessments should identify what help the child and family require to prevent needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989. The early help assessment should be undertaken by a lead professional who could be a teacher, special educational needs coordinator, General Practitioner (GP), family support worker, and/or health visitor.

*** Where there are more complex needs, help may be provided under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (children in need). Where there are child protection concerns local authority services must make enquiries and decide if any action must be taken under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.