

Guidance for Convening a Strategy Discussion on Open Cases where there has been a Safeguarding Incident.

All strategy discussions should be overseen/ managed by the Assessment Team. This ensures a level of objectivity and consistency. It also assists in the management of risk.

Assessment Teams are responsible for completing strategy discussion documentation and ensuring action plans are recorded, completed and circulated.

Cases progressing to a S47 investigation are monitored by the Assessment Teams (ATM).

The role of the Assessment Teams is to agree, chair and oversee any strategy discussions and S47 investigations. All case management responsibilities remain with the relevant Family Support, LAC/LC or Disabilities Teams.

Guidance:

Before approaching the Assessment Teams about a safeguarding incident on an open case:

- Key Worker discusses concern with Team Manager who completes a 'significant event on an open case' report with a clear explanation of why a strategy discussion is required; work completed so far, details of incident etc.
- Team manager for the child sends report to TM/ATM Assessment Team.
- TM for the child and TM/ATM Assessment discuss details of case.
- If strategy discussion is agreed, key workers 'PEC' case and invite TVP to discussion ensuring the Assessment team can attend, book room and invite other key professionals (**never** including parents/ carers). These might include schools, nurseries etc and should include health professionals where appropriate.
- Where the incident involves (possible) allegations against a professional working with children or vulnerable adults the LADO Service must be invited.
- Key Worker attends strategy meeting with a clear plan as to how they feel the child (ren) can be protected.
- The strategy discussion considers: the details of the incident, the information provided, any actions required (including the need for a medical examination and immediate safety plans) with timescales and names.
- Where a s47 investigation is required the ATM Assessment monitors progress. The TM for the child ensures actions are completed and feeds back to ATM Assessment. The s47 episode will be sent to the TM for the child for completion and closure.
- Uncompleted s47 episodes will be reviewed at CTM meetings.

Cases requiring a strategy discussion include:

Physical injury

Sexual abuse or disclosure

Domestic abuse where a child has been directly involved

Missing children (24 hours - telephone strategy discussion. 5 days - face to face)