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Strategy discussion

Learning from case reviews in Salford has shown that [Strategy Discussions](#) are not always effective. The quality of information sharing is impacted by non-attendance of relevant multi-agency professionals.

A strategy discussion must take place promptly when a safeguarding concern is identified. More than one strategy discussion may be needed to ensure all information is gathered, but care must be taken not to leave child/siblings too long without a decision or action. See Chapter 1

[Working Together 2018](#)

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Who should be involved

The Strategy Discussion must involve *as a minimum*: social worker, social work manager, relevant health professionals and a police representative (all are statutory partners).

Additional attendees could include: the professional or agency that made the referral, the child's education setting, any other health services the child or family are receiving.

All those involved should be prepared enough to contribute to discussions *and sufficiently senior* to make decisions on behalf of their agency

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Roles & Responsibilities (all agencies)

Share relevant info about the child or family including historical and other area information if the family have moved.

Consider the Voice of the Child (is there coercion?) and their lived experience

Plan the S47 (if applicable) e.g. the timing of medical assessments, gathering info and decision around ICPC

Consider levels of risk and agree immediate actions to safeguard the child.

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Roles and Responsibilities

The **Social Work Manager** will Chair the meeting and:

- Assess the level of risk and decide what info can be shared
- Agree further SMART actions and delegate to the group
- Record agreed decisions
- Follow up actions to make sure what was agreed is done in a timely way

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Escalation and professional disagreement

If at any stage there is disagreement, for example, about whether to progress to a S47 Enquiry, the expectation is that differences are resolved at practitioner level by discussion between agencies (and recorded). If this is not possible, the disagreement must be addressed by more senior staff through line management structures. See the [GM Resolving Professional Disagreements Policy](#) and [local guidance](#). Non-attendance of statutory partners at the strat meeting can also be escalated.

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Recording the outcome

Children's Social Care will:

Record: action points (inc contingency planning), clear rationale for decision-making, timescales, agreed roles and responsibilities and mechanism for reviewing completion of action points

Record who contributed information for the discussion – name, job role, agency and whether present, plus evidence of professional challenge

Circulate the notes of the meeting to all parties within one working day.

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Roles and Responsibilities cont

The police should discuss the basis for any criminal investigation and any relevant processes agencies need to know about, including timing and methods of evidence gathering, incorporating information provided at the meeting into the investigation which they will lead.



Additional Information

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