

Abuse by Children on Others

Children can cause harm to other young people or adults, particularly vulnerable adults. This harmful behaviour may be: sexually harmful behaviour, serious non-sexual violence or serious emotional abuse and may be carried out by an individual or as part of a group, which includes gang or weapons related violence.

Children who harm others are likely to have additional and complex needs and while they should be responsible for their behaviour, they should also be safeguarded and their welfare should be promoted.

Where an alleged rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made the starting point should always be the police, regardless of the age of the alleged perpetrator.

Making a Referral

When there are concerns about risks of significant harm:

- A referral to Children's Social Care
- Follow up decision on referral after 24 hours
- All agencies must work together and share information
- Agencies should consider their responsibilities for both the victim and alleged abuser

OUTCOME OF Section 47 Enquiries

A range of outcomes may apply as the needs of the victim and the alleged abuser are assessed:

- A Child Protection Conference for the victim/s
- A Child Protection conference for the alleged abuser
- A Multi Agency Planning meeting
- A Family Group Conference

Criminal investigations and therapy for child witnesses may be taking place in parallel with safeguarding services and multi-agency collaboration will be essential.

Strategy Discussion / Meeting

Children's Social Care, the Police and other relevant agencies like Schools and Health professionals must be involved in determining whether a Child Protection investigation (Section 47 Enquiry) should take place. A Youth Offending Service representative should be involved if the child is aged eight or over. The meeting should take place within 24 hours and will be chaired by a Children's Social Care Manager.

Initial Child Protection Conference

In addition to assessing the needs of the individual children in the ICPC, the risks of significant harm must be analysed carefully including all settings where the alleged abuser might be in contact with vulnerable others. If it is decided that a Child Protection Plan is not required, a Multi-Agency Planning Meeting must be arranged to ensure that the risks in relation to the alleged abuser are managed by all agencies.

Safeguarding Fact Sheet:

Risk Assessment and MAPPA

Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are in place to protect the community from known potentially dangerous offenders. This includes young people who meet the MAPPA criteria. The YOS worker should refer the child / young person to MAPPA. This includes when a young person is released following conviction of sexual or serious violent offences. Risk assessment will be undertaken by MAPPA.