



Child Protection Process

Professional has concerns

If a professional has a concern about a child, or unborn baby, then follow the General Procedures provided



Consultation with Supervisor

Professional discusses concerns with supervisor or Designated Safeguarding Lead to decide next steps



Discussion with Parents

Professional discusses concerns with parent/ carers of the child and explains what steps they will take next (if this does not put the child at further risk or affect a police investigation)



MASH

Where there are urgent concerns, professional contacts Gloucestershire MASH on 01452 426565 (option 3)



Seeking advice from Children's Social Care

If you work with children and families and have safeguarding concerns which are not of an urgent nature and would like a conversation to consider threshold and planning, please contact the Community Social Work Team on 01452 426263.

Alternatively, if you ring 01452 426565 and select option 2, you will be transferred to the Early Help service for their response. However, where possible, please contact the Community Social Work team in the first instance.



Making a Request for Service to Children's Social Care

Unless there are urgent concerns, professional completes a Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF). This is passed on to a social work team and the caller will be contacted by a social worker within 24 hours (unless there are immediate risks in which case the professional will be put through to a social work team straight away). The social work team will discuss whether the referral is appropriate and what action can/ will be taken. Please use the [Gloucestershire Children's Services Portal](#) to submit a MARF.



Referrals to Social Care

Professional has made a referral to Social Care

If a professional has a concern about a child, or unborn baby, then follow the General Procedures provided



Confirm in writing

If due to urgent concerns, a MARF was not completed at the time of the initial contact, then the referral must be followed up in writing within 48 hours and sent to childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Assessment

If accepted the referral will lead to an Assessment being commenced to determine whether there is suspected actual harm or likely significant harm



Strategy Discussion

The Strategy Discussion is convened by the appropriate Assessment Team where there is suspected actual harm of likely signification harm



Section 17 Child in need of services

Section 17 services are required when there are health or development concerns. These are determined through an assessment of need and are appropriate when the child is judged not to be at risk of significant harm or any previous concerns have been

Resolved

Section 47 Child in need of protection

A Section 47 enquiry is required because it is judged there is suspected actual harm or likely significant harm to the child. An assessment is carried out and it may be decided that Child Protection Conference is required, which should then be held within 15 working days



Outcome of Assessment

The Assessment may confirm child protection concerns in which case a Child Protection Conference should be held within 15 working days of the last strategy discussion. (It may also determine that services are required under Section 17).



Child Protection Conference Process

A Request for a Child Protection Conference has been made

The Strategy Discussion convened by the Children's Social Care team will decide if a child is judged to be at continued risk. The Child Protection Conference Team must be informed immediately if this is the case



Initial Child Protection Conference

The multi-agency Conference includes all professionals who are involved with the family and the children and young people themselves. Together it is decided whether a Child Protection Plan should be put in place



No Child Protection Plan

The Child Protection Conference agrees that no Child Protection Plan is required but it may be that Section 17 services are required



Child Protection Plan

The Child Protection Conference agrees that a Child Protection Plan is required



Core Group

The Core Group meets after the Conference to follow through the Child Protection Plan lead by the Child's Key Worker



Review Child Protection Conference

Within three months of the Initial Conference the Child Protection Conference Team convenes this to review the progress of the Child Protection Plan and decides either:

To end the Child Protection Plan

This may be that:

- the child protection issues are resolved
- services may be required under Section 17 or
- the child is protected through other procedures (Looked After Children)

So the CP Plan is no longer required

OR

To continue with the Child Protection Plan

The Child Protection Conference agrees that a Child Protection Plan continues to be required as there is suspected actual harm or likely significant harm. The Plan would then be reviewed every six months.