**FII STRATEGY MEETING**

Upon receipt of the referral Children’s Services should undertake a short information gathering assessment which should conclude that there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, a multi – agency strategy meeting should be convened. The strategy will be set up as set out in LSCB Chapter 6, however, the following should be considered when setting up this meeting due to the complexities of FII.

A series of strategy meetings may be required before a conclusion is reached on the need to initiate a s.47 enquiry or further ‘in-depth’ assessment.

If the child is in hospital and there are concerns about possible significant harm as a consequence of FII, discharge should not take place until a multi-agency Child Protection Strategy Meeting has discussed the concerns.

It may be useful for the first strategy meeting to scope the nature of the concerns, agree what information is needed, how this will be gathered and also whether immediate action is required to safeguard the child.

All agencies/professionals should produce a completed chronology in preparation for this or subsequent strategy meeting. It may also be appropriate to use in the strategy, as a multi-agency group the following tools from the FII toolkit which can be found at **Appendix 1 and 3 – checklist for professionals concerned that a child may be experiencing FII and FII template.**

The strategy meeting should **be chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer who will have equal responsibility as the Responsible Paediatric Consultant.** It is essential that the Responsible Paediatric Consultant attends and the location of the meeting may be determined by this.

In a vast majority of cases parents/carers will not be aware that the strategy meeting is being held. In such cases professionals should not inform parents/carers that the strategy meeting is occurring. **Confidentiality at this stage is very important.**

Support and supervision for staff completing reports for the strategy meeting should be provided by their Child Protection Advisor or supervisor before submission to the meeting.

Professionals should be aware that minutes from the strategy meeting may be shared with the family at a later date and if a case subsequently goes to Court will be available for the Court Process.

**Attendance at FII Strategy Meeting**

The meeting should be organised to ensure that the following professionals can attend:

* Children’s Services
* Responsible Paediatric Consultant/Designated Doctor
* Police
* Named Nurse(s) from involved NHS Trust(s)

The following may also be invited as necessary:

* GP
* Health Visitor
* Relevant Ward Nurse (if the child is an in-patient)
* Education
* School representative
* Legal Advisor to the Local Authority
* A medical professional who has expertise in the branch of medicine which deals with symptoms and illness presenting.
* Adult psychiatrist –if parent/carer known to the service

**Other arrangements before the FII strategy meeting**

The following should be considered when arranging the strategy meeting:

1. If possible, the meeting should be held on hospital premises – hospital may not be involved, to facilitate the attendance of health care professionals;
2. If the child is in hospital, the meeting should not be held on or near the ward where the child is;
3. The meeting should be booked in the name of one of the lead professionals, not the child or family – this should not be given;
4. Any discussions about the meeting and/or referral should be on a need to know basis;
5. The Team Manager should liaise with the Local Authority legal advisor if they may need to attend the strategy meeting.