

## **Child Protection Enquiries (Section 47)**

Local Information

### **1. Initiating Section 47 Enquiries**

Where information gathered during a Referral or an Assessment (which may be very brief) results in the Team/ Duty Manager suspecting that the child is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Strategy Discussion/Meeting should be held to decide whether to initiate enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Strategy Discussions/Meetings should be held as soon as possible, bearing in mind the needs of the child and must take place within 24 hours of child protection concerns being identified.

The purpose of the Strategy Discussion is to decide whether a **Section 47 Enquiry** under the Children Act 1989 is required and if so, to develop a plan of action for the Section 47 Enquiry. The **Social Work Assessment** is the means by which the Section 47 Enquiry is recorded by Children's Services Social Care.

More than one Strategy Discussion may be necessary.

Where there are more than one Strategy Discussions/Meetings, care must be taken to monitor the timeframes involved so that no child is left for too long without a decision as to what services should be provided or what actions should be taken. Where an **Initial Child Protection Conference** is to be convened this must take place within 15 working days of the last Strategy Discussion.