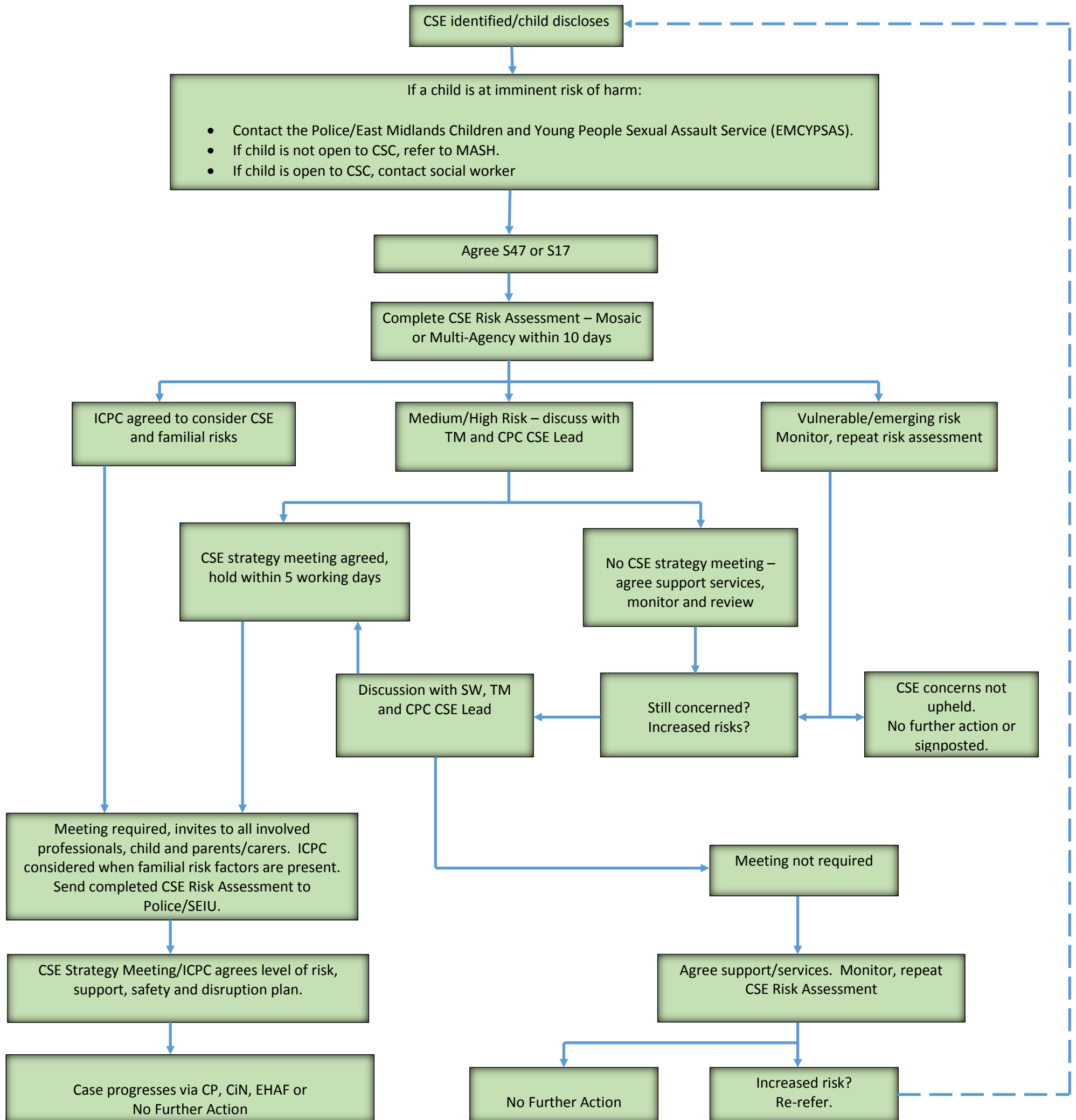


## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Multi-Agency Pathway Nottinghamshire

**This guidance is applicable to all victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them.



**Encouraging people to seek help and support** – there are many reasons why victims will not, or feel they cannot, speak about their experiences or seek help and support so it is important to build trust to enable this happen.

- Always be alert to the possibility that an individual could be experiencing sexual exploitation, regardless of their age or gender and be prepared to offer support.
- When a victim is hard to engage, the person with the best relationship with them should lead discussions.
- Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children or friends where sexual exploitation is known or suspected.
- Only ask questions about sexual exploitation when victims are on their own and in a private place.

*Never assume that someone else will address sexual exploitation issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals have acted in a way which you would expect. You may be the victim's first and only contact. Remember victims can deny sexual exploitation is happening and minimise the risk of harm. Discuss with your manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly.*