REVISED

MERSEYSIDE WIDE

AREA CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

ABUSED THROUGH

PROSTITUTION

AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

AS AGREED BY

WIRRAL ACPC . LIVERPOOL ACPC . SEFTON ACPC
ST HELENS ACPC . KNOWSLEY ACPC
MERSEYSIDE POLICE . BARNARDO’S

March 2004
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Definition.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Principles.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lead Person</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Procedure</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Children in Need and Planning Process</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Children Looked After by Local Authority.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1 - Guidance Notes for Practitioners</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2 - The Role of Barnardo’s Merseyside Scheme</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 3 - Records of Strategy Discussion/Meeting</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 4 - Key Contacts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This procedure relates to the safeguarding of children and young people in the Merseyside Area, who are abused through prostitution and sexually exploited.

It has been developed and agreed by the following Area Child Protection Committees:-

Wirral
Liverpool
Sefton
Knowsley
St Helens

This is a revision to the previous policy and procedure, originally written in 1999. It is relevant to all agencies in the statutory and voluntary sector who are concerned with promoting the safety of children and young people.

This document forms part of and should be read in conjunction with, the Local Area Child Protection Committee Policy and Procedures.
1. INTRODUCTION

Children and young people are being abused through sexual exploitation, including prostitution, locally, nationally and internationally.

Such abuse is generally a hidden problem, the full extent of which is not yet known. What we do know, however, is that these children and young people are deprived of their childhood and adolescence by their exposure to abuse.

Those who abuse children and young people target the most vulnerable in society. Those children who are abused will have come from a variety of backgrounds, including those who are “looked after” by the Local Authority, have run away, or are still resident in their own homes and cared for by their own families. There is no single pattern of how children and young people become exploited in this way, although the most common features are vulnerability and low self-esteem. A multitude of factors may have led to their vulnerability such as difficult or abusive childhood experiences, educational under-achievement, alcohol/drug misuse and pressure from others who may already be involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution.

These children and young people, who are not of an age and maturity to have made informed choices, should primarily be treated as victims of abuse who may require services or protection under The Children Act (1989).

It is clear from research that they have been coerced and are often very desperate.

The primary law enforcement effort must be against those who abuse and coerce these vulnerable children and young people.

Children and young people abused through sexual exploitation and/or prostitution may be difficult to engage and may be under strong pressure to remain involved in the exploitation. The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families states that this is a particularly vulnerable group who may become “lost” to the statutory agencies. Gaining the child/young person’s trust and confidence and working with the child/young person to construct a plan that s/he can agree to is vital if they are to be safeguarded and enabled to exit from the exploitative situation. Health and Voluntary Sector organisations may be best placed initially to engage with children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. However the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority must be recognised and promoted by all. The Local Authority must take the lead in ensuring multi-agency planning and practice.

There may, never the less, be occasions when extensive attempts within a multi-agency planning process to safeguard a child/young person from sexual exploitation
will fail. In these circumstances, the Government believes that the law plays an important role as a deterrent and as a lever to use, as part of a diversion strategy. However the focus for prosecution should be the alleged perpetrator rather than the child/young person in question.

The Local Authority’s legal duty under The Children Act 1989 is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are deemed to be in need (S.17) Children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, require careful and sensitive assessment and are children in need.

This protocol extends the age range beyond that specified in Government guidelines (see below), to include those young people who would be eligible for After Care Services following being looked after by the Local Authority.

This protocol is drafted in accordance with Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution, Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2000 and should be read in conjunction with that document which is issued under Section 7(7) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and local Area Child Protection Committee (A.C.P.C.) Child Protection Procedures.

This protocol specifies an agreed policy and procedure for all Merseyside Area Child Protection Committees. The primary aim of all involved is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people abused, or at risk of abuse through sexual exploitation, including prostitution.

The Steering Group recommends this protocol to all Merseyside organisations which provide services to children and young people.
2. DEFINITION

The United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child says that the state shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article 34 states that all appropriate measures will be taken to prevent:

- The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

- Child Prostitution is commonly defined as:

  The provision of sexual services in exchange for some form of payment such as money, drink, drugs and other consumer goods or even a bed and a roof over one’s head for the night.

- A Form of Sexual Abuse

  The prostitution of children and young people is a form of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by adults. The young people either through their age or needs are unable to give truly informed consent

  *Melrose, Barrett and Brodie: One Way Street. The Children’s Society 1999*

- Sexual Exploitation

  The Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm 1996) provided this definition of the practice in general.

  ‘The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children’s rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery’.
3. PRINCIPLES

3.01 All children and young people under eighteen years old sexually exploited and/or abused through prostitution should be treated as “victims” of abuse, and will be deemed children in need.

3.02 Work with children and young people who are sexually exploited and/or abused through prostitution will require an inter-agency approach and a coordinated response.

3.03 The safety and welfare of children and young people will be paramount.

3.04 The primary law enforcement effort will be directed towards adult abusers and coercers.

3.05 The primary emphasis in intervention with children and young people will be to prevent their exploitation, or to prevent further sexual exploitation and to promote exit strategies.

3.06 Where sexual exploitation of a child or young person is known or suspected, the situation will be promptly and fully assessed and investigated, with appropriate action being identified and pursued.

3.07 The child/young person’s circumstances and needs will be addressed with due regard to their gender, race, ability, culture, religion and sexual orientation.

3.08 Both male and female children and young people suffer as victims of abuse through sexual exploitation. Equal consideration for intervention, protection and support will be given irrespective of gender.

3.09 Action which may label, stigmatize or criminalise a child/young person should be avoided.

3.10 Agencies must be prepared to share information relevant to a child/young person’s care and protection on an inter-agency basis, in accordance with locally agreed A.C.P.C. procedures, the local Crime and Disorder protocols or strategies.

3.11 Staff who have direct responsibility for working with children and young people at risk of/abused by sexual exploitation will have access to training and support to assist them discharge their duties effectively.

N.B See previous reference at Introduction re. After Care, i.e. this Policy also includes those young people who would be eligible for after care services following being looked after by the local authority.
4. LEAD PERSON

Merseyside Police and each Local Authority will identify a lead officer to undertake the role of the lead person

The lead person will:-

- Promote the development of services within their organisation/ACPC

- Maintain management information systems.

- Co-ordinate the exchange of information and ensure its dissemination to relevant staff and carers.

- Keep abreast of new developments.

- Attend or delegate attendance, as appropriate, at Merseyside Inter-Agency Steering Group Meetings.

The Inter Agency Steering Group will consist of representatives from each Area Child Protection Committee and other relevant organisations including Barnardo's Merseyside Scheme.
5. PROCEDURE

The inter-agency procedure aims to ensure that all agencies and professionals work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and young person. All children and young people must be treated as individuals and account must be taken of their race, religion, culture, language, gender, sexuality and ability.

Information necessary to safeguard a child or young person must be shared across appropriate organisations and agencies in line with established Child Protection procedures.

Identification of concern for a child or young person abused or suspected of being abused through prostitution and/or sexual exploitation should always trigger the information being passed on immediately to the appropriate team and/or lead person in Social Services or Police. If the information is received by the Police it must be shared with Social Services. (Ref. “What To Do If You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused” DOH 2003).

Customer service/referral advice teams will be required to take referral, however limited the information, and treat this as they would any child concern referral. This referral should be passed on a speedily as possible. Whatever the point of referral within Local Authority Social Services, the information must be shared with the Child Protection Unit who will have an overview of the investigation process.

Any information coming to the attention of Social Services will be immediately shared with the Detective Inspector/Detective Sergeant of the relevant Police Family Support Unit or other identified Police Manager (e.g. Crime Manager or Neighbourhood Inspector). This contact will take the form of a “Strategy Discussion”.

“Strategy Discussions and “Strategy Meetings” will follow the format agreed by Social Services and the Police on Merseyside. The principles and guidance on the appropriate documentation which must be used are contained at appendix 3.

As child sexual exploitation is a specialist area the following guidance is provided for the content of any such discussion or meeting.

5.1 Strategy Discussions

- Will usually take the form of a telephone conversation between managers from SSD and Police.
- Should take place as soon as is practicable from the time of referral.
- It may/could lead to a Strategy Meeting
- Will be held where the relevant managers agree that:-
  - There is insufficient information/detail to convene a Strategy Meeting and more work is required by one or both agencies.
Where urgent action is required in order to safeguard an individual(s) or whose safety may be compromised by the delay in convening a Strategy Meeting.

The strategy discussion will consider the following issues:-

- The assessed needs of the child or young person and whether arrangements may be necessary for his or her immediate safety.
- The arrangements for continuing protection, support and diversion.
- The management of any repeated behaviour by the child or young person
- Who needs to have the information and when it will be shared
- Feedback arrangements with timescales including the need to convene further discussions or a Strategy Meeting.
- If a Strategy Meeting is required who will be invited/informed and arrangements for organising it.

5.2 Strategy Meetings:-

- Will be convened by Lead Investigating Agencies (i.e. SSD and Police).
- Will be used to bring together Health, Barnardo’s Merseyside Scheme and other key agencies and individuals as appropriate.
- Strategy Meetings will not include children, young people or their family members.
- Should not be delayed unnecessarily due to the unavailability of partner agencies
- Should be Chaired by the designated Child Protection and Review Officer from the Local Authority.

A strategy Meeting will normally consider one child. However, in certain circumstances, and with the agreement of the professionals concerned, this should not preclude the potential for a strategy meeting to focus on more than one child (e.g. where a number of children come from one care establishment.

The meeting will consider:-

- The needs of the child or young person and whether arrangements may be necessary for his or her immediate safety.
• The co-ordination of the arrangements for the child/young person’s safety and support within any criminal investigations.

• The requirements of any child care/protection plan.

• The arrangements for continuing protection, support and diversion.

• The management of any repeated behaviour by the child or young person.

• The roles and responsibilities of those involved including identifying a key worker.

• Any advice which may be given to carers/care workers involved with the child/young person.

• Appropriateness and method of interview of the child or young person.

• Appropriateness and nature of any medical examination.

• Whether it is appropriate for Youth Offending Teams to take key worker responsibility given their statutory responsibilities.

• Who needs to have the information and when it will be shared.

• Timescales for how the agreements will be monitored, reviewed and updated, including the necessity for reconvening the strategy meeting.

• Feedback arrangements with timescales, including the need for a further strategy meeting or case conference.

• What information coming from the meeting should be shared with the child/young person or carers and by whom.

The strategy meeting should work by consensus in order to best safeguard the child’s welfare.

A decision to prosecute a child for any related offences will only take place following an inter-agency discussion at a strategy meeting.

In all cases staff should be aware of the implications of the Data Protection legislation and in particular that issues of confidentiality and storage need to be considered.

Records should be maintained of all decisions made in relation to any case subject of these procedures. It should be borne in mind that record might be subject of disclosure in subsequent proceedings.
All information from any investigation/strategy meeting etc., must be forwarded to the relevant agency representative for sharing as appropriate with the Area/Local Authority Risk Meeting (ALARM). (See overleaf).

5.3 Area/Local Authority Risk Meeting (Monthly):

Attendance:

- Area DCI (Chair)
- Area FSU
- Intelligence Unit
- MFH Co-ordinator
- Sex Offender Officer
- Local Authority – Social Services – Child Protection Unit (representing local groups e.g. care homes, voluntary organisations.

Aims and Objectives:

- To facilitate the identification and tracking of potential exploiters of children/young people in a joint agency context and to agree strategies to investigate such individuals thereby reducing the risk they pose.

- To provide the opportunity to consider information in a wider relevant context in order to assist the development of appropriate intelligence.

- The meeting will not focus on the individual needs of sexually exploited young people other than to agree respective responsibilities where these have not previously been determined at a strategy meeting held under this protocol.

- Share information which has already been subjected to some single agency analysis and which may have some significance in terms of joint investigation. This information may come from an investigation or an agency/individual’s concern for an individual or groups of young people in the arena of Child Sexual Exploitation.

- To task actions as appropriate in relation to any information shared.

- To identify information, which needs to be shared pan-Merseyside or wider, together with timescales for such action.

- To link into MAPPA (Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements)
5.4 Pan Merseyside Group (Quarterly)

Attendance:

- Public Protection Unit (Chair)
- Area DCI (Chair)
- Local Authority – Social Services as appropriate.

Aims and Objectives:

- To share information relating to young people cross border links/associates/locations.

- To share information on individuals who have been identified as having pan-Merseyside relevance in the exploitation of children and young people in order to promote effective investigation (e.g. perpetrators/suspects who associate with sexually exploited young people or pose a cross border threat).

- To identify potential hotspots, which attract vulnerable young people from other Areas, for risk assessment purposes.

- To consider resourcing issues in cross border investigations and to link into CARE+ and MAPPA processes as appropriate.
Information/Concerns about potential Child Sexual Exploitation

Information passed to Social Services

Information passed to Police

Strategy Meeting

Designated Child Protection and Reviewing Officer informed

Strategic Discussion

Continue as per Flow Chart 4 Pg. 13

‘What to do if You’re Worried a Child is Being Abused’ (DOH 2003)
6. CHILDREN IN NEED AND PLANNING PROCESSES

Victims of sexual exploitation are part of a wider group of children who may also be involved in other activities, which draw them to our attention and indicate the need for our involvement. These children are referred to as “Children in Need”, which is a generic term, covering a variety of circumstances and issues, and which indicates the need for support and assistance to ensure the child/young person’s protection and well being.

Each local authority is required to develop a “Children’s Service Plan” for all “Children in need” within the authority. The “Safeguarding Children Abused Through Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation” protocol fits into the ACPC Procedures and Guidelines, and Children’s Services Plan in line with other children and families policies, procedures and planning processes.

It should also be read in line with other relevant protocols and procedures e.g. MAPP (Multi-AGENCY Public Protection Panels), Child Protection Procedures, Missing Persons, Child Pornography and the Internet etc., which come under the responsibility and remit of the Local Authority Area Child Protection Committee, and which will be included in the procedures and guidelines for all staff.

Inter-agency planning in respect of children and young people is strengthened by the policies and procedures already in existence, and by the introduction of this protocol. It is important that this protocol is not viewed in isolation, but is seen as part of a holistic approach to meeting the needs of “children in need”. 
7. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Children and young people Looked After by the Local Authority are a group who are potentially vulnerable to abuse through sexual exploitation.

Family Placement:

Carers should have access to appropriate levels of support and training to assist them in providing safe care.

Consideration within the inter agency strategic planning meeting should be given to when and if it is appropriate to inform the child’s or young person’s carers or potential carers of the child/young person’s known or suspected abuse through prostitution and/or sexual exploitation.

Carers will be invited to attend inter-agency meetings as appropriate and will be consulted about changes to the child/young person’s care plan.

Like residential staff, foster carers have an important role to play in considering the child/young person’s behaviour, movements and contacts relating to any concerns or suspicions that the child/young person may be being abused through prostitution and/or sexual exploitation.

In the event of any concerns or the child/young person going missing from the placement, Social Services key worker, or the Out of Hours Service, or Police should be informed immediately.

Care Leavers:

Care leavers who are suspected or known to be being abused through prostitution and/or sexual exploitation should be reported to the team managing After Care Services, as well as Social Services’ lead person. Social Services and the Police should liaise as necessary and appropriate.

Care leavers may be particularly vulnerable to developing chaotic lifestyles which may or may not include substance misuse and violence. Care leavers should be offered services which reduce the risks to them and look at exit strategy planning. Such plans need to take account of the young person’s physical and emotional health and well being and provide information on sexual health and personal safety.

Effective harm minimisation and successful exit strategies require working closely with both statutory and non-statutory organisations.
Guidance notes for practitioners

It is difficult to estimate how many children are sexually exploited/abused through prostitution because the ‘street’ scene is only part of the picture. Much abusive activity occurs behind closed doors in bedsits, flats, saunas, massage parlours and hotel rooms. However, research that has been conducted indicates that girls as young as nine and boys as young as six are known to have been sexually exploited/abused through prostitution.

The picture emerging is that those who sexually exploit children/abuse them through prostitution, come from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, as do the children they abuse. Abusers and pimps are found in many settings and have numerous ways of entrapping young people. While runaways, looked-after children and homeless young people may be particularly vulnerable, it is also recognised that those who live with their family of origin may be groomed by abusing adults.

Government guidance (see DoH supplementary guidance ‘Safeguarding children involved in prostitution’ 2000) sets out a framework for protecting young people up to the age of 18 from sexual exploitation/abuse through prostitution. However, there is growing evidence across the UK that the needs of young people of 16 years and above are being given a lower priority by statutory authorities. Young people in this age group are less likely to be seen as victims and are often not offered the protection and support that is given to younger victims.

What to look for:

‘Routes in’ to sexual exploitation do vary but can include exploitation by:-

- An Older boyfriend
- An Abusive adult
- A Peer
- A Family member

This will have implications for ‘what to look for’ in terms of a child or young person’s current behaviour and situation. It also has implications for considering other possible victims (e.g. siblings and peers may be abused by the same adult, or ‘recruited’ by another young person).

In terms of the factors in the past that may increase vulnerability to exploitation, practitioners should consider:

- Past history of abuse/domestic violence
- Failed attachments
- Being ‘Looked after’ – especially multiple placement
- Prostitution within the family
In terms of current behaviour/concerns, practitioners should consider:

- An Older boyfriend
- Abusive/Controlling adult
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- Truancy
- Isolation from friends
- ‘Under influence’ of alcohol and drugs (including ‘date rape’ drugs)
- Self harm
- Bruises, bites, cigarette and rope burns
- Collected from home/school in unknown cars
- Reluctance to discuss relationships/whereabouts
- Missing, especially over night
- Gifts, jewellery, unexplained income
- Secretive use of Internet
- Secretive use of mobile ‘phone/landline
- Seen in risky areas/with risky peers or adults

**Trafficking and the internet**

It is now recognised that the Internet is being used by abusers (pimps) to exploit young people. Equally, abusers secretly video young people being abused through prostitution, and broadcast this live on the Internet. Mobile phones with cameras may also be used.

A pattern is emerging of both girls and boys being trafficked into the UK from Eastern Europe and Africa, with a view to them being sexually exploited. Children from Asylum Seeking backgrounds may be particularly vulnerable. Children are also trafficked between UK cities.
APPENDIX 2

The Role of Barnardo’s Merseyside Scheme

The Barnardo’s Merseyside Scheme is one of twelve national Barnardo’s projects that aim to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation amongst children and young people. Established in April 2000, the Scheme offers direct support services to girls and young women up to the age of 18 who are being abused through prostitution/sexual exploitation. (From November 2003, a pilot service on the Wirral will also include work with boys).

The Objectives of the Merseyside Scheme are:-

To reduce the risks to children and young people by:-

- Providing sexual health and personal safety advice, counselling and support
- Exchanging information across agencies with designated staff to monitor and assess relevant activities and assist in the identification of perpetrators.

To promote greater awareness of and sensitivity to children and young people being exploited or at risk of being exploited by:-

- Offering training to staff and carers
- Providing inter-agency guidelines and procedures in relation to practice

To prevent and minimise the potential for abuse and/or promote exit strategies by:-

- Obtaining early identification and assessment of potential risk factors
- Providing prompt, decisive and effective responses
- Working closely and sharing responsibility with statutory and other voluntary agencies.

To promote greater awareness amongst children and young people about the risks of exploitation by:-

- Promoting training and education packages across the statutory and voluntary agencies which are made available to children and young people giving consideration to their age and ability.

To collate statistical information to assist the development of future strategy by:-

- Allowing the extent of need to be identified.

The service can be contacted for advice on 0151 228 0903
APPENDIX 3

Records of Strategy Discussion/Meetings

Efficient and effective exchange of information and recording of decisions is recognised as key within an effective Child Protection System.

All parties acknowledge that the best practice is to exchange and record information in paper form and every effort will be made to adhere to this.

The introduction and use of shared documentation for the recording of information exchange and agreed actions in relation to Child Protection referrals and subsequent strategy discussion and strategy meetings will assist in the safeguarding of individuals.

All agencies will adopt these documents and processes in their progression towards compliance with the Department of Health requirements within an “Integrated Children’s Services”.

Documentation

For every Strategy Discussion or Strategy Meeting, the Department of Health approved record will be completed.

Comment on the reason for and purpose of any discussion or meeting (page 1) can simply make reference to a uniquely identifiable referral document.

Reasons for Decisions (page 2) should provide brief rationale behind any agreements.

Further Actions (page 3) should make clear what is to be done, by whom and within what time scale.

At the conclusion of the Strategy Meeting all present will be provided with a copy of the document detailing agreements and actions and will sign the attendance sheet (page 4).

There is no requirement to produce comprehensive minutes of Strategy Meetings within routine investigations.

Each Local Authority will, under the remit of the ACPC, be responsible for monitoring compliance with the formation and execution of actions agreed at Strategy Meetings.
This provides a record of the decisions of a strategy discussion/meeting. In some situations, it may be appropriate for a strategy meeting/discussion to consider all children/young people living in a household. Where this occurs, a separate record should be completed for each child/young person.

### CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S DETAILS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family name</th>
<th>Given names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DoB or expected date of delivery**
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Unborn
- ________________

**Address**
- ____________________________________________________________________________

**Postcode**
- ________________

**CSSR Case Number**
- ____________________________________________________________________________

### DISCUSSION/MEETING DETAILS:

| Date of discussion/meeting: | [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] |

**Agencies involved in strategy discussion/meeting:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Telephone number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REASON FOR AND PURPOSE OF STRATEGY DISCUSSION


A core assessment should be commenced when, following a strategy discussion, s47 enquiries are initiated (paragraph 3.11, Assessment Framework).

Where there are allegations of abuse made against a professional, foster-carer or volunteer, s47 enquiries, a police investigation and disciplinary procedures may be taking place concurrently (paragraphs 6.13-6.22, Working Together).

If disciplinary procedures are taking place, this section should refer to the relevant staff file for further information.
**FURTHER ACTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical examination required:</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If Yes, when will this take place:</td>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of medical examiner:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieving Best Evidence Interview required:</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If Yes, when will this take place:</td>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name(s) and Agency of Interviewer:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has a Child Interview Plan record been completed?:</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If No, when will this be completed</td>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name and Agency of Person Responsible for Plan:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiate emergency legal action?</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If Yes, when will this be initiated:</td>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is a further strategy discussion planned?</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If Yes, when will this take place:</td>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FURTHER ACTIONS (include any further actions required, by whom and within what time scale).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s) to be taken</th>
<th>Person/Agency responsible</th>
<th>Date for completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Signature (Manager responsible for Strategy Discussion/ Meeting)</th>
<th>________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Strategy Meeting Recommendations

Date of meeting ……………………………………………………………

Venue of meeting ………………………………………………………….

Chair of meeting …………………………………………………………

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Action by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations of Strategy Meetings

Each of the above recommendations should be confirmed with each member agency represented at the strategy meeting. Once the recommendations have been agreed, each member agency is asked to sign that they agree with the record. A signed copy of the above agreements must be given to each person attending the strategy meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The strategy meeting representatives must agree any action, which may trigger the need to convene an earlier review meeting, and record these below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Event triggering early Review</th>
<th>Action by</th>
<th>Notify</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date and Venue of Review Meeting .................................................................
APPENDIX 4

KEY CONTACTS

Barnardos Merseyside Scheme ................................................ 0151 228 0903

Knowsley Health & Social Care (Quality Assurance Unit)........... 0151 443 4468

Knowsley Police Family Support Unit ................................. 0151 777
6381/2

Liverpool Supported Living & Community Safety (Child Protection
Unit)

Liverpool Police Family Support Unit ....................... North ...... 0151 777
4581/2

South .......... 0151 777
5081/2

Liverpool Investigations Support Unit

0151 233 4987

Sefton Children Schools & Families Service......................... 0151 934 3909

Sefton Police Family Support Unit ............................... 0151 777
3081/2

St. Helens Social Services (Child Protection & Review Unit)....... 01744 456965

St. Helens Police Family Support Unit .............................. 0151 777
6183/4

Wirral Social Services (Quality Assurance Unit)................... 0151 639 0761

Wirral Police Family Support Unit ............................... 0151 777
2682/3

Merseyside Police Public Protection Unit ........................... 0151 709 6010

N.B. Further copies of this document may be obtained from

1. Merseyside Police Public Protection Unit
2. Barnardo’s Merseyside Scheme
3. The above telephone numbers in respect of each Social Services Department