



**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 07 DECEMBER 2010**

**INVOLVEMENT OF HEALTH IN CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS  
(TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION)**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. To appraise the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) on progress towards establishing Tripartite Discussion.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Inspection findings (March 2010) identified consistent involvement of health staff in the early stages of planning the response to child protection concerns, as an area for improvement.
- 2.2 Information sharing and discussion about situations with local health staff is routine by social workers responding to child protection concerns.
- 2.3 The recommendation made by HMle required further development of the above to ensure all available and relevant health information was gathered and where a child protection investigation was considered or initiated an appropriately trained health professional was involved in the decisions affecting the progress of the investigation. These actions would constitute the Tripartite Discussion process.

**3. ACTION**

- 3.1 Where a situation requires an alert to the Child Protection Register, the Social Work Team Manager will initiate a Tripartite Discussion (appendix 1).
- 3.2 The initiation of the process will be recorded on the Child Protection Alert and the social work information system.
- 3.3 The details of the discussion will be recorded on the CP1.
- 3.4 Compliance with the process will be reported to the CPC in the quarterly statistical report.

**Maureen Bell**  
**Nurse Consultant Child Protection**

**(appendix 1)**

**Initial Enquiry**

**SW/Police Receive CP/CP Concerns Referral  
(Not deemed as "Significant Concern" at this stage)**

**SW Contact health professionals already known for information  
Contact CPHT to check for other health service involvement (01294 323431)  
(Available Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm)**

**Assess information  
Make decision in partnership with Lead Professional  
from universal service (HV/education staff)  
Details of the discussion recorded on the relevant  
documentation/It system e.g CP1 if relevant**

**Concern Now Deemed as Significant & CP  
alert being initiated or considered?**

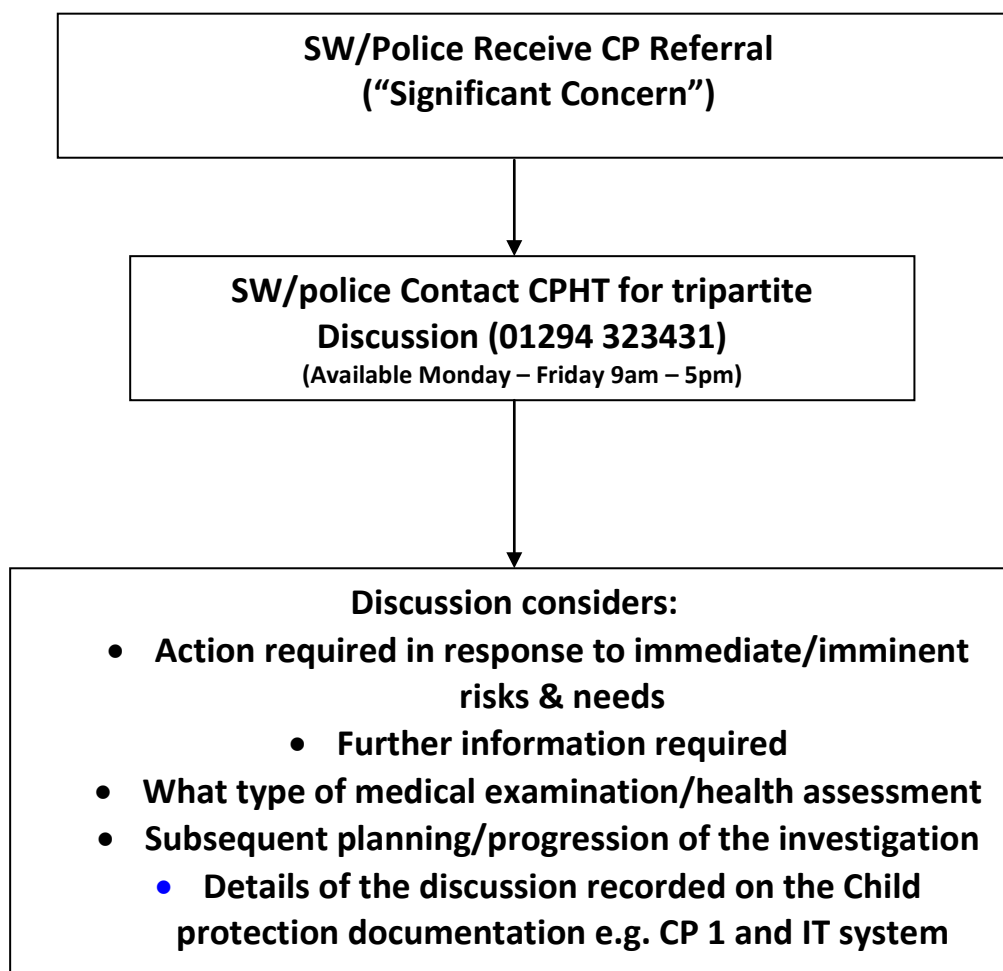
**NO**

**Professionals manage  
case based on GIRFEC  
principles**

**Yes**

**Tripartite  
Discussion**

## Tripartite Discussion



### Mode of Discussion

The discussion may take place by telephone or by meeting depending on the situation.

### Professional Involvement

The discussion will take place between the social work team manager involved in the investigation, the police officer assigned to the investigation and a member of the Child Protection Health Team – Nurse Consultant for Vulnerable Children or a Child Protection Adviser.

Each professional will be expected to provide the expertise required from their agency and ensure actions agreed are completed and reported back to the social worker leading the investigation to inform the assessment of risk, the investigation and for inclusion on the CP1.

### Out of Hours

For child protection investigations initiated outwith normal working hours the social work team manager should commence the tripartite discuss process the next working day.

CP - Child Protection  
CPHT – Child Protection Health Team  
SW – Social Work  
GIRFEC- Getting It Right for Every Child