

## **INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS TO CONSIDER WHETHER A CHILD SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN:**

The Conference should consider whether the child is at continuing risk of **Significant Harm**.

The test should be that either:

- The child can be shown to have suffered ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as result of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment are likely; or
- Professional judgment, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in this individual case or by research evidence, is that the child is likely to suffer ill treatment or the impairment of health or development as result of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect.

It is important to consider the following:

- Harm may be by omission or commission
- Harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development
- Development means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural
- Health means physical or mental wellbeing

### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe or persistent adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations, limitation of exploration and learning. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another (e.g. domestic abuse). It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including child sexual exploitation, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact such as involving children in looking at pornographic material, or in the production of child abuse images or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. This includes internet activity.

## **NEGLECT**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter; abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

## **CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES**

**Please note that the information in this meeting is shared with you in confidence and should not be reproduced, divulged or used for any other purpose without the consent of the Chairperson.**

## **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

If, following the conference, you are unhappy and feel that:

The way the Child Protection Conference dealt with the case was unreasonable; or

A. The final decision as to registration was made on a flawed basis, (perhaps due to a lack of information, or incorrect information being presented); or

B. You are unhappy about the registration or de-registration.

Please contact the Team Manager in person, by letter or by telephone.

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