

# Families First Children's Services

Responding to Child  
Sexual Abuse

Kim Kara (team  
manager)

# What is Families First?

Redesign which included Out of Hours and MASH

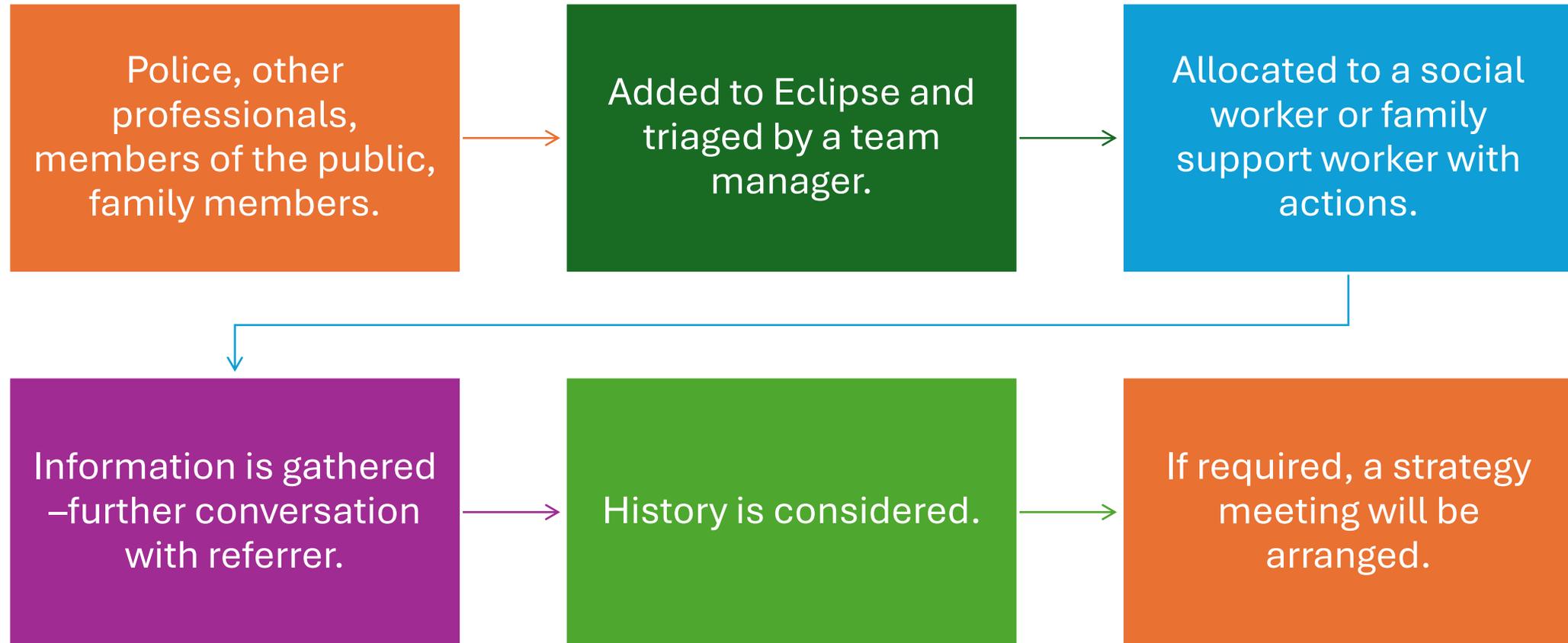
24/7 service – 8am-8pm Monday to Friday; 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday and bank holidays. On Call for emergencies outside of these times.

Includes 12 social workers, 4 family support workers, 3 team managers.

From 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, we are co-located with colleagues from health, education, police, Family Hubs, and Targeted Help with plans for this to expand.

Move towards a “conversation-based model”.

# Referrals into Families First



## The child has a social worker already



Make contact with that social worker, a duty worker, or their team manager to share your concerns. They will take necessary action.



If you do not know how to contact them, ring 01752 668000 and you will be directed to the right person.



If you have contact details for the social worker, you **do not** need to refer to Families First.

# Strategy meetings for child sexual abuse

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Professional meeting attended by children's social care, police, health representative, education representative, SARC, and if possible any other professionals working with the family.

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Purpose: to understand if a child has experienced, or is at risk of significant harm, and how these risks can be managed.

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The concerns and history are considered, along with information from partner agencies, and the views of the parents if appropriate.

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Outcome agreed (section 17, section 47, NFA) and actions identified.

# Strategy meeting outcomes

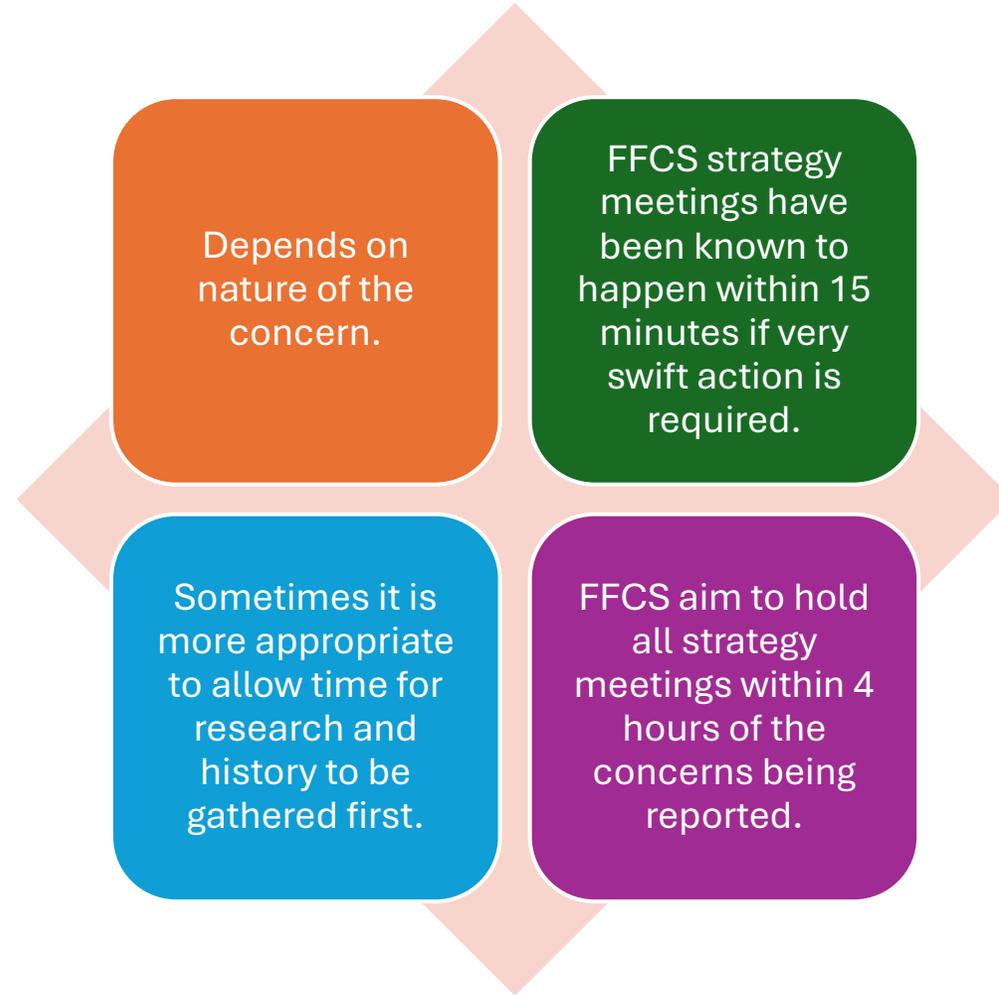
Section 47 – appropriate if a child has experienced significant harm, or is likely to without intervention.

- Single agency (children’s social care alone)
- Joint agency (children’s social care and police – generally used if a child has been a victim of a crime)

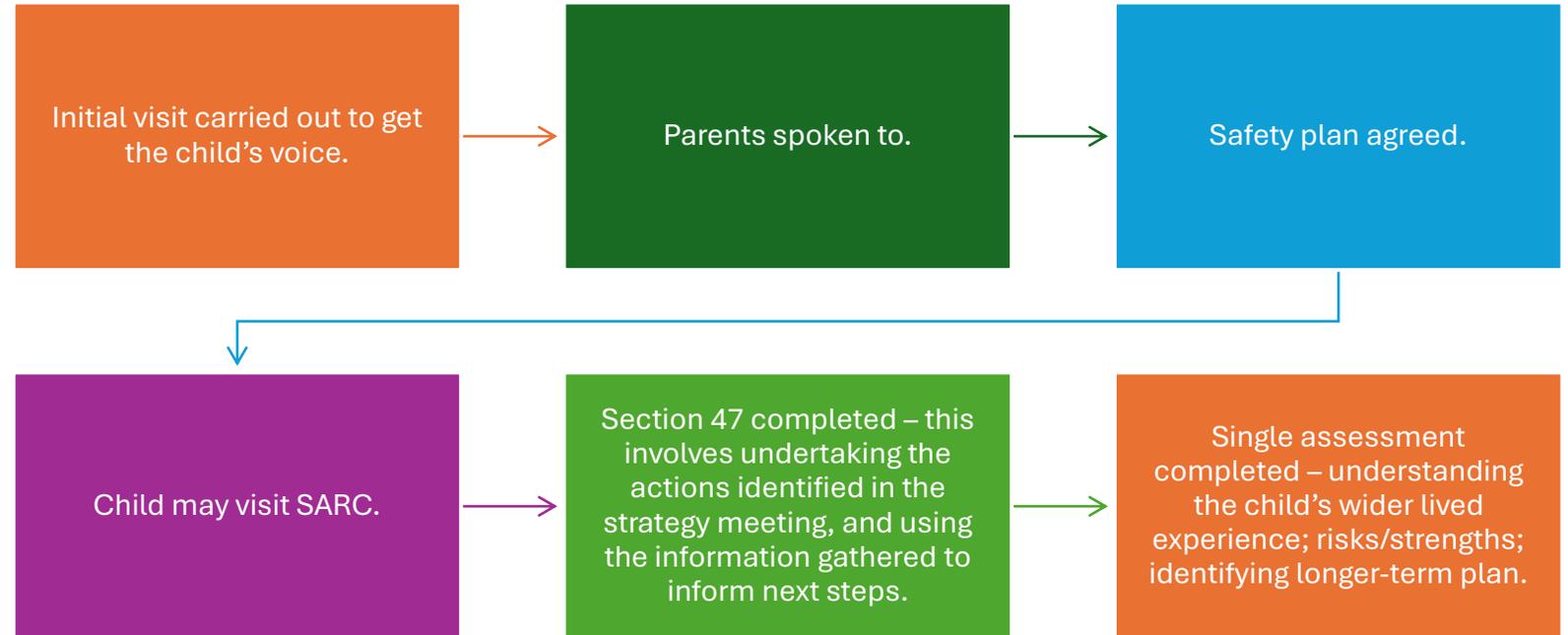
Section 17 – Considering all the information, there are not concerns for significant harm. Intervention from children’s social care will be with consent from parents/carers.

No further action – a statutory safeguarding response is not required. There may be intervention from other services, but not children’s social care.

# How quickly do strategy meetings happen?



# What happens next?



# When is a strategy meeting not required?

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“Normal” exploratory play between children.

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Young people sharing intimate images with each other, if there is nothing to indicate there has been coercion or threats used.

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“Green” behaviours on the Brook Traffic Light Tool.

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No longer used if the only concern is that mother is a victim of FGM.

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Statutory safeguarding intervention may still be provided.

# What if I'm not sure?

- Brook Traffic Light Tool ([CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool \(RSE\) Course](#)) – helps differentiate between sexualised behaviour of differing levels of concern.
- Signs and Indicators Tool ([Signs and indicators of child sexual abuse | CSA Centre](#)) – developed by Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. Helps understand when a child might be experiencing sexual abuse, but have not made a disclosure.
- NSPCC ([Understanding sexualised behaviour in children | NSPCC Learning](#))
- Families First: 01752 668000;  
[MASH@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@plymouth.gov.uk)

# Questions?

To refer or seek advice:

Families First: 01752 668000

[MASH@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@plymouth.gov.uk)