

7 Minute Briefing

1 Definition

An inter-agency referral discussion (IRD) is the start of the formal process of information sharing, assessment, analysis and decision-making following reported concern about abuse or neglect of a child or young person up to the age of 18 years, in relation to familial and non-familial concerns, and of siblings or other children within the same context. This includes an unborn baby that may be exposed to current or future risk.

2 Purpose

IRDs are required to ensure a co-ordinated inter-agency child protection process up until the point a Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM) is held, or until a decision is made that a CPPM is not required/that alternative action is required.

7 Health Assessment – Agreed Actions

The health assessment of a child for whom there are child protection concerns aims: to establish what immediate treatment the child may need • to provide a specialist medical opinion on whether or not it is child abuse or neglect • to support multi-agency planning and decision-making • to establish if there are unmet health needs, (including mental health), investigations, monitoring and treatment that the child may require • to listen to and to reassure the child • to listen and reassure the family as far as possible in relation to longer-term health needs
Provide an action, during the IRD DO NOT LEAVE BLANK

Inter-Agency Referral Discussion

3 Instigation

The decision to convene an IRD can be made by police, health or social work, but a request to consider an IRD may be made any agency.

6 Decision Making

Participants must consider how the priority considerations will lead to decisions about:
What decisions must be taken about the immediate safety and wellbeing of this child and/or other children involved?

5 Priorities

The safety and needs of the child/children involved

- level of risk faced by child/children and by others in this context
- evidence that a crime or offence may have been committed or may be committed against a child or any other child within the same context
- legal measures that may be necessary

4 Information Sharing

Core agencies and relevant services consulted at the IRD stage must research the information systems available to them in order to share necessary, proportionate and relevant information **RELATING TO THE CONCERN** for the purpose of effective decision-making. Views of the child and family to be included.