

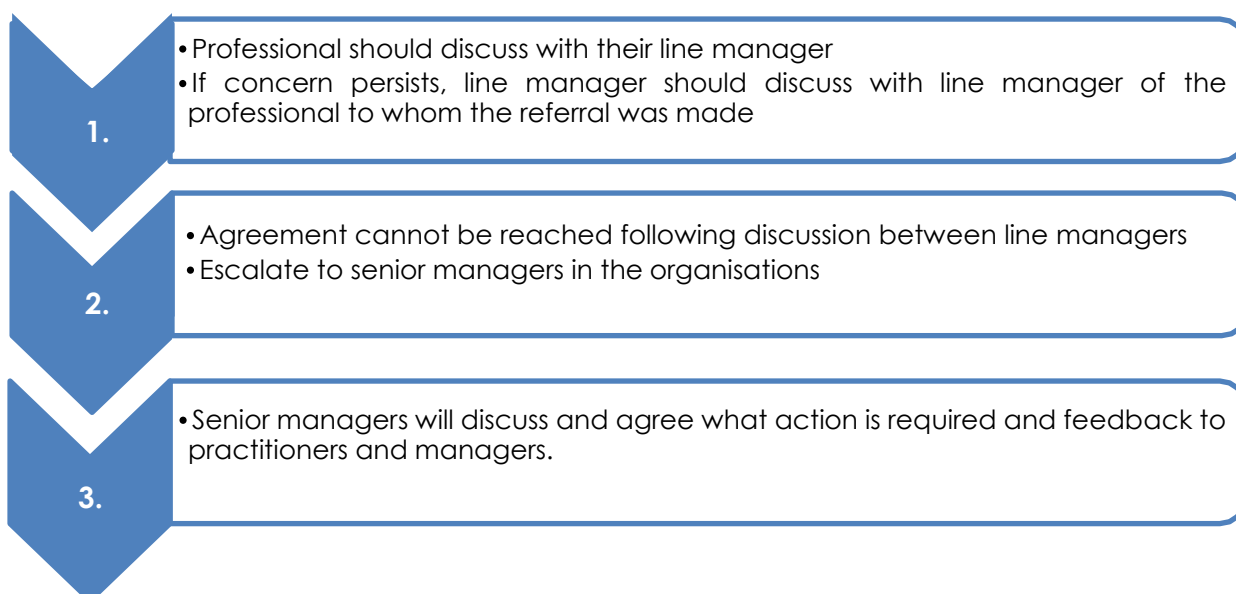
West Lothian Child Protection Committee

Escalation/Dispute Resolution Procedure for Child Protection Referrals, IRDs, CP Planning Meetings, Core Groups

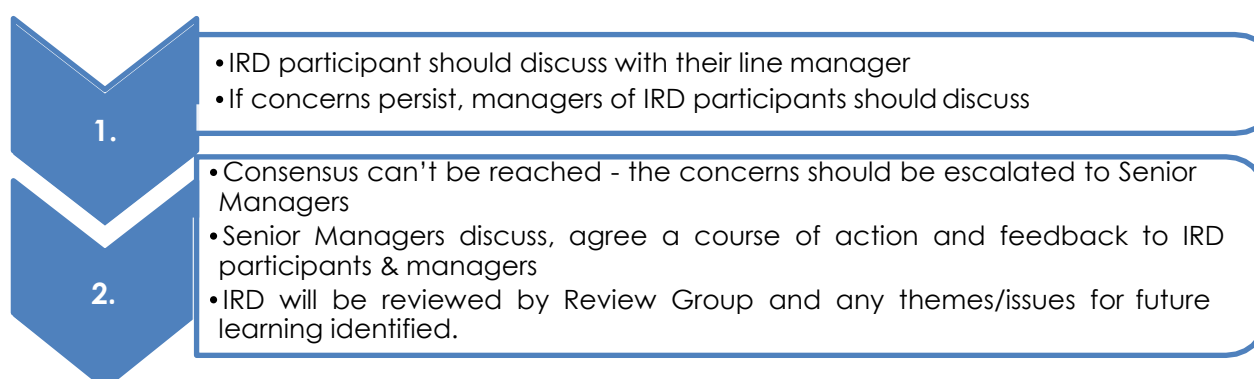
Keeping children safe is everyone's business and the Child Protection process is a multi-agency one, relying on professionals in all agencies sharing information and working together in the best interests of the child. Robust discussion, challenge and differences of opinion are a valuable part of the process and enable professionals to reach consensus about the best way forward.

This procedure should only be used on the rare occasions where professionals fail to reach agreement and one professional/agency believes that the proposed course of action leaves a child at risk of significant harm

1. **Referrals:** The referrer is dissatisfied with the response from the core agencies (Police, SW, Health) after making what they believe to be a child protection referral. (e.g. that the referral is not managed as child protection or no further action is taken) If after further discussion, negotiation, explanation and clarification the referrer is still concerned:



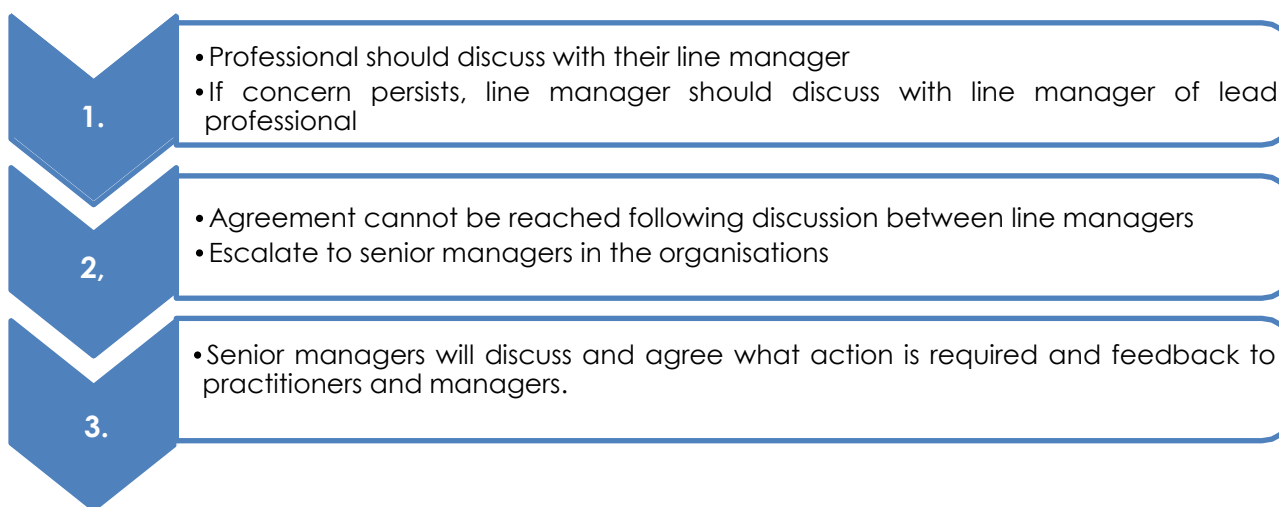
2. **Inter-agency Referral Discussions:** IRD participants are unable to reach agreement re outcome of IRD: An IRD participant disagrees with the plan of action and following discussion/negotiation/explanation/clarification consensus cannot be reached.



3. **Child Protection Planning Meetings:** Disagreement re outcome of CPPM: A participant believes that the decision not to register, de-register or the CP plan leaves a child/young person at risk of significant harm.

The Edinburgh and Lothians Multi-agency Child Protection Procedures 2023 detail how dissent at CPPMs is dealt with and escalated.

4. **Core Groups:** a member of the core group does not think that their concerns or views are being considered or heard and believe that the actions (or lack of action) are leaving a child at risk of significant harm. Following further discussion, negotiation, explanation and clarification they remain concerned:



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