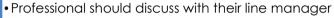
West Lothian Child Protection Committee Escalation/Dispute Resolution Procedure for Child Protection Referrals, IRDs, CP Planning Meetings, Core Groups

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:



•If concern persists, line manager should discuss with line manager of the professional to whom the referral was made

Agreement cannot be reached following discussion between line managers

• Escalate to senior managers in the organisations

• Senior managers will discuss and agree what action is required and feedback to practitioners and managers.

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.

• IRD participant should discuss with their line manager

• If concerns persist, managers of IRD participants should discuss

• Consensus can't be reached - the concerns should be escalated to Senior Managers

•Senior Managers discuss, agree a course of action and feedback to IRD participants & managers

•IRD will be reviewed by Review Group and any themes/issues for future learning identified.

2.

1.

2.

3.

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:

1.

- Professional should discuss with their line manager
- •If concern persists, line manager should discuss with line manager of lead professional

2,

- Agreement cannot be reached following discussion between line managers
- Escalate to senior managers in the organisations

•Senior managers will discuss and agree what action is required and feedback to practitioners and managers.

3.

Senior Manager Contacts:

Group Manager Social Work: 07770 653438 Detective Inspector, PPU: 01506 833841 Lead Paediatrician for CP: 0131 312 0499