

## 14. Consultation/Referrals

If the Designated Safeguarding Lead receives allegations or has suspicious of abuse, or needs advice, he will inform the Children's Services Department, or the Police directly if it is an allegation or serious criminal offence, within 24 hours of his concerns. If the consultation/referral is by telephone, a written confirmation will be made. If the case meets the criteria for eligibility, the Children's Services Department will make background enquiries, including with the police. If the concerns appear well founded, a strategy discussion will follow, normally within two working days. At this point a decision will be taken either to proceed with an S47 enquiry/criminal investigation or not. If the concerns are substantiated and the child is deemed at continuing risk of significant harm, a Child Protection Conference will be convened.

The School will also:

- Take any necessary steps for the longer term protection and support of each pupil who has made allegations of abuse, or is alleged to have suffered from abuse, taking his or her wishes fully into account. This may involve the pupil receiving continuing support and protection from a staff member chosen by him/her, or changing boarding accommodation, or returning to his/her parents temporarily.
- Take any necessary steps to protect and support a pupil who is alleged to have abused another. The allegation may not later be substantiated, but even if it is, the School continues to have a statutory welfare responsibility towards this pupil while he/she is at the School. Ensure that any pupil being interviewed by the police has available a supportive member of staff of his/her own choice to accompany him/her if this becomes necessary.
- Take any necessary steps to support a member of staff against whom an allegation has been made, in addition to protecting their anonymity, for example, offers of external counselling and appropriate reasonable support (including medical) could be considered