\*When conducting a [s47](https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/page/glossary?term=Section+47&g=xgjN#gl15) enquiry, the social worker should seek the parents’ permission to conduct [s47](https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/page/glossary?term=Section+47&g=xgjN#gl15) checks unless to do so would place the child at risk of [significant harm](https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/page/glossary?term=Significant+harm&g=3YjN#gl1). Managers must record decisions about seeking permission.  If the manager decides not to seek permission, they must record the reasons why, for example it may: Be prejudicial to the child's welfare; Have serious concern about the behaviours of the adult; Have serious concern that the child would be exposed to immediate risk of harm. Where permission is sought from parents and carers and denied, the manager must determine whether to proceed, and record the reasons for the decision they make.

Seek parental permission to undertake s47 checks \*

Police investigate possible crime

Decision to initiate section 47

Strategy discussion is convened by LA children’s social care to decide whether to initiate section 47 enquiries. Decisions are recorded

Child not likely to suffer significant harm

Further decisions made about on-going assessment and service provision according to agreed plan

With family and other professionals, agree plan for ensuring child’s future safety and welfare and record and act on decisions

Social worker leads assessment under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and other professionals contribute. Assessments follow local protocols based on the needs of the child within 45 working days of the point of referral.

Yes

Social work manager convenes child protection conference within 15 working days of the last strategy discussion

Concerns substantiated, child is likely to suffer significant harm

Child likely to suffer significant harm

Decisions made and recorded at child protection conference

Agree whether child protection conference is necessary and record decisions

Concerns substantiated but child not likely to suffer significant harm

Concerns about child not substantiated but child is a child in need

With family and other professionals, agree plan for ensuring child’s future safety and welfare and record and act on decisions

Child is subject of child protection plan: outline child protection plan prepared; core group established – see flowchart 5

No

Social worker leads completion of assessment

Decision to complete assessment under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989

No further LA children’s social care involvement at this stage, but other services may be required