



How to identify and respond to concerns about a child or adult at risk: a joint agency protocol between the Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)



F **Familiarise** yourself with the family, their unique culture and characteristics, strengths and vulnerabilities. Who are the significant people in their lives (including new partners/adults in the home)?

A **Ask** and be **curious** about everything especially where there is: domestic abuse, mental health issues, substance misuse, disabilities, learning disabilities or any other additional need.

M **Make a plan** of action to safeguard the adult or child – please see flowchart below. Give special consideration to people who are pregnant and young carers.

I **Information sharing** - Information should be: necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure. Do not assume others already know. Remember: safeguarding always overrides consent.

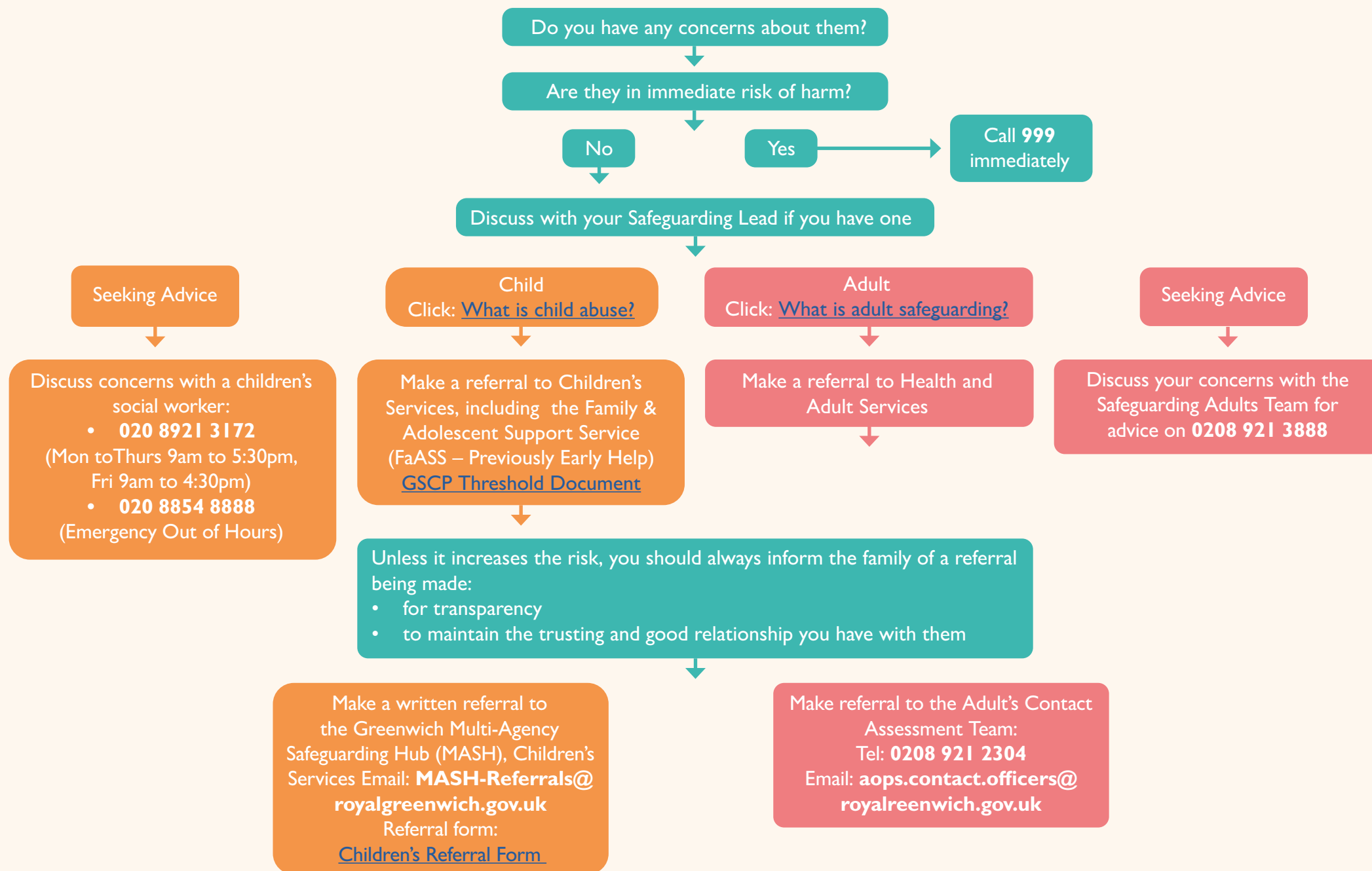
L **Liaise** with partners to ensure good interagency collaboration, think who is involved. Is it Health Workers, Police, Probation Staff, Social Care Staff, Community Partners, Voluntary Sector, Faith Groups?

Y **Your responsibility** – Safeguarding is a shared responsibility which must be at the heart of practice across all partner agencies.



Use this when working with an individual or a family and consider anyone else in the home or other significant people

RECORD THROUGHOUT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND HOW YOU WILL FOLLOW UP



7-minute briefing

1. Introduction and purpose

Safeguarding Adults Board and Children's Partnership are committed to ensuring improved partnership arrangements in order to support both children and vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect.

This protocol is to ensure effective and timely referrals between all Adult's and Children's Services, including the transition between Adult's and Children's Services and to promote good practice in multi-agency working.

2. Background

Analysis of findings from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and recent child and adult deaths (that have led to CSPRs and SARs) indicates there is cumulative risk of harm to a child when different parental and environmental risk are present in combination or over periods of time.

This protocol highlights some of the major areas of impact, and recognises that professional judgement plays a significant part in assessing concerns.

7. Further information

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
[London Child Protection Procedures Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
[Greenwich Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

3. Successful interagency working

Themes that have repeatedly come out of Serious Case Reviews (SCR/CSPR'S & SAR's) of incidents in which children and adults have been harmed repeatedly highlight a lack of checking between services, to see if a child at risk has a parent or carer known to adult services, or if an adult with significant needs is a parent or a carer to children.

6. Practice actions

Consider a joint assessment with Children's/Adult Services when dealing with mental health issues within a family.

A Family Group Conference should be considered as a possibility of focussing on resources and protective factors within the family and its environment.

If unsure always discuss and reflect with your line manager



5. Key practice points

Increasing every family member's understanding of a parent's mental health can be helpful in terms of increasing their ability to cope.

Assessments of people who are pregnant should identify services they and the unborn child require and include gathering relevant information from their GP and any other agencies involved, to ensure that the full background is known.

It is vital that transition planning for those approaching adulthood is started early. It should centre on the views, wishes and aspirations for the future of the young person.

4. Safeguarding children and adults

Adult safeguarding and child protection is the duty to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child or adult who is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. Harm can be categorised as physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation. Children can be at risk from significant harm when they have caring responsibilities for others.

Children in need are those who are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development without the provision of services, or who are disabled.