

# 7-Minute Briefing: Protocol for Professionals' Meetings and Multi-Agency Working Forums



## 1. Background

This protocol is aimed at all professionals working with adults, children and their families or carers. It aims to provide the necessary structure to **enable** staff to meet within a professional forum, as appropriate, to meet the needs of the adults or children they support.

Multi-agency meetings are used to support staff in relation to their practice and working together successfully. The Protocol considers the following:

- Multi-agency Group Supervision
- Reflective Learning Practitioner Forums
- Professionals' Meetings

## 7. What to do

- Read the [Multi-Agency Protocol for Professionals' Meetings and Multi-Agency Working Forums](#)
- Discuss the new Protocol with your team/manager.
- Contact the Public Protection Lead Officer Adult Support and Protection [Sandie.Donald@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Sandie.Donald@dumgal.gov.uk) or Public Protection Lead Officer Child Protection [Clare.Cowan@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.Cowan@dumgal.gov.uk) if you have any questions or would like to discuss the protocol further

## 6. Questions to Consider

- Have you read and understood the new Protocol?
- Are you clear on the differences between the multi-agency working forums and when a Professionals' Meeting may be required?

## 5. Additional considerations

It is every practitioner's responsibility to problem solve where there is disagreement and ensure that communication is clear and open, and that disagreement and escalation does not result in time delay in considering next steps for the child or adult.

**Remember** multi-agency working forums and professionals' meetings are not planning meetings. If participants believe the child or adult is suffering from, or at risk of, immediate/significant harm, then existing child protection or adult support and protection procedures should be implemented.

## 2. Purpose of multi-agency working forums

There are currently many multi-agency meetings designed to allow professionals, in partnership with the person, parents or carers, to consider multi-agency information, identify the needs of the person, and together formulate plans to meet these needs. In most circumstances these meetings should provide the appropriate context for multi-agency discussion and debate. However, there are times when a multi-agency meeting is required outwith these planning forums.

## 3. What does the Protocol do?

The multi-agency working protocol is designed to make it as easy as possible for frontline practitioners to work together and build trusting relationships. It recognises that good communication is central to effective multi-agency working.

## 4. How will it help?

- Distinguishes the differences between the identified multi-agency working meetings.
- Outlines the factors that should be considered in order to help staff identify which multi-agency meeting best suits their needs.
- Focuses on the requirements of a Professionals' Meeting
- Informs of next steps should escalation be necessary
- Considers the importance of **Professional Curiosity** and **Professional Judgement** when working together.
- Highlights that professional disagreement can be healthy and generate constructive debate, which may ultimately lead to more robust assessment and action planning.