



REQUEST 18915

In September 2022 the Child Safeguarding Review Panel issued guidance asking that “all safeguarding partners review their current policies on bruising in non-mobile infants to check for consistency with the evidence base and national guidelines.”

Can you respond to the following freedom of information request:

1. Was there a review of your safeguarding policies after this guidance was published, when was it, and what did it conclude?
2. Provide any papers that give information on the outcome of this review.
3. Does your policy require a s47 investigation or strategy discussion in all cases?

4. What changes were put in place to provide consistency with the evidence base and national guidelines.

RESPONSE

Our protocol was updated in Feb 2025

There are no additional papers

The protocol states:

“A Referral **MUST** be made immediately to Children’s Social Care for multi-agency review and decision making within Children First Partnership Hub.”

It also notes that “A multi-agency strategy meeting **MAY** need to be arranged.”

A referral is mandatory, but a strategy discussion or Section 47 investigation is not automatic in all cases—it depends on the outcome of multi-agency screening.

The protocol aligns with national safeguarding guidance by:

- Mandating immediate referral for any suspected injury in a non-mobile child.
- Requiring multi-agency information sharing and screening before decisions.
- Including clear escalation steps (strategy meeting, child protection medical if necessary).

5. Were there changes to your definition of when a child is not independently mobile and how is that now defined – in particular are children who can roll defined as not independently mobile and are children classified as not independently mobile on the basis of age?

The protocol does not explicitly define “not independently mobile” or address rolling or age-based classification. It focuses on children who are not independently mobile. The definition remains consistent with the general safeguarding interpretation (typically infants who cannot crawl or walk), but the protocol does not clarify rolling or age specifics