

Workforce Brief No.2

Interagency Referral Discussions (IRD)

Audience

- Professionals with lead responsibilities for child protection
- Practitioners required to contribute towards child protection processes
- Senior managers across all agencies,

From the 15th August 2022 Moray Children Services Partnership will begin implementing the New Child Protection Guidance 2021.

We would like to inform you about improvements to our child protection processes over the coming months as part of the implementation program

1. Introducing the new North East IRD template.

IRD's will be recorded in the same format across Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. The new IRD template will be piloted in Moray from 15th August 2022 and includes the following changes:

- Whilst an IRD may consider numerous children, each child should have an individualised record of the IRD minute
- Interim Safety Planning must now be fully considered and recorded during all IRDs.
- Should an immediate safety response be required before an IRD meeting can take place, all actions and decisions must be clearly recorded on the IRD template retrospectively.
- Reconvened IRD's can now also recorded on the same template. (See Pg 2)

What does this mean for staff?

The IRD template and guidance has been shared with IRD chairs across social work and police. Support and feedback for chairs will continue throughout the pilot.

For agency staff attending an IRD there will be no change to the information that you are expected to prepare for the meeting, or your role in the meeting itself.

Where possible, we ask that you email the information that you share at IRD with the chair following the meeting.

The chairs will support you during the meeting and if you have any questions or would like to discuss what happens at an IRD prior to the meeting you can contact the social work access team or the police IRD desk who will talk you through the meeting.

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2. Reconvening the Interagency Referral Discussion

A reconvened IRD is the process of coming back together as agencies to review and further analyse information that has been gathered since the original IRD.

An IRD should be reconvened when information that was not previously known or considered has potential impact on the assessed risks to the child/ren, and could lead to reconsideration of the required multi agency response.

An IRD may be re-convened at any point ahead of an initial child protection case conference taking place, in order to facilitate and formalise decision making and interim safety planning processes.

An IRD may be reconvened in the same meeting format as the original IRD, or via email if a reasonable decision can be recommended and agreed by partner agencies. Regardless of the method, a reconvened IRD will always be named as such and added as a record on the original IRD template. A reconvened IRD drop down has also been added to the social work recording system (Care First).

What does this mean for staff?

You may be asked to attend a reconvened IRD meeting in order to consider new information, or be asked to endorse the recommendation from a partner agency via email.

As is currently the case for IRDs, Police, Social Work and Health colleagues can call a reconvened IRD whilst other partners can make a request that these agencies do so.

For more information, click [here](#) to read the national guidance on IRDs.

Agency specific queries can be directed to your child protection representative:

Education: Lynne Riddoch & Hazel Sly

Social Work: Donna Borek & Lizette Van Zyl

Police: Caroline Gray

Health: Joanna McCauley

Or email mcpc@moray.gov.uk with your questions and feedback.



Workforce briefings for the implementation of the [National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland 2021](#) in Moray.

Brought to you on behalf of the Moray Child Protection Committee.

