

# One Page Brief

## Multiagency Escalation Procedure

In June 2023, the MCPC ratified the Multiagency Escalation Procedure (attached to this email and available on respective partner agency intranets as clarified by agency representatives), which aims to outline the ways professionals may seek support and oversight from senior staff when a case is complex and one or more professionals have identified an issue, such as:

- Practitioners involved in the case cannot reach consensus about case management and decisions, individual processes, procedures and practice (see full procedures for examples).
- Existing plans do not appear to meet wellbeing needs/mitigate risks (including to staff) and professionals are unsure about the next steps.
- One professional/agency believes that progress towards improved outcomes for a child is not achieved.

This procedure can be used where the risk the child faces or poses appears to be increasing (but there is no emergency) and professionals have discussed the concern in existing fora (e.g., LAC Review, Core group meeting, Review Child Protection Planning Meeting). **Where there is an emergency escalation in the case, the Lead Professional and/or the Police should be notified and the Moray Multiagency Child Protection Procedures 2023 apply.**

The Multiagency Escalation Procedure corresponds with but differs from Moray's Multiagency Reflective Case Discussion Procedure. **As opposed to the Reflective Case Discussion, the Escalation Procedure is a decision making forum and applies when professionals have a clear understanding of issues or concerns around the case.**

### What does this mean for staff?

**All Practitioners** can invoke the multistage Escalation Procedure by following the steps outlined in the document. The stages include:

Initial resolution (routine practice)

Stage 1: escalation to first line management (routine practice)

Stage 2: escalation to second line management (exceptional cases)

Stage 3: escalation to third line management (exceptional cases)

Stage 4: escalation to Head of Service (exceptional cases)

Stage 5: ultimate decision making by the Chief Social Work Officer (exceptional cases)

Senior Social Workers/Managers/Lead Professionals are asked to support their staff in the escalation process as outlined in the procedure.

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

**Education:** Lynne Riddoch & Hazel Sly

**Social Work:** Donna Borek & Lizette Van Zyl

**Police:** Graeme Forbes

**Health:** Joanna McAulay

Or email [mcpc@moray.gov.uk](mailto:mcpc@moray.gov.uk) with your questions and feedback.

