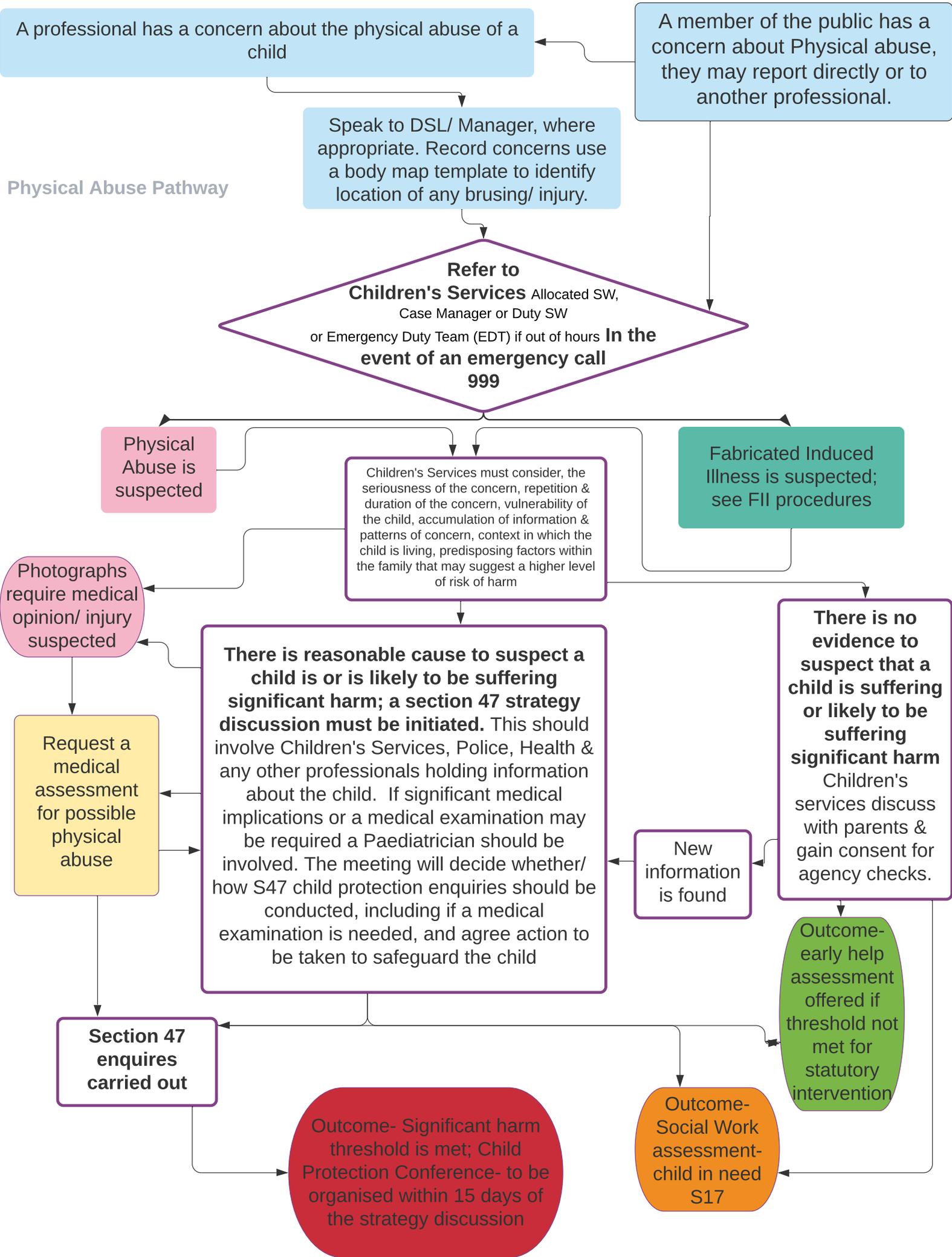


Physical Abuse Pathway



A professional has a concern about the physical abuse of a child

A member of the public has a concern about Physical abuse, they may report directly or to another professional.

Speak to DSL/ Manager, where appropriate. Record concerns use a body map template to identify location of any bruising/ injury.

Refer to Children's Services Allocated SW, Case Manager or Duty SW
In the event of an emergency call 999

Physical Abuse is suspected

Children's Services must consider, the seriousness of the concern, repetition & duration of the concern, vulnerability of the child, accumulation of information & patterns of concern, context in which the child is living, predisposing factors within the family that may suggest a higher level of risk of harm

Fabricated Illness is suspected; see FII procedures

Photographs require medical opinion/ injury suspected

There is reasonable cause to suspect a child is or is likely to be suffering significant harm; a section 47 strategy discussion must be initiated. This should involve Children's Services, Police, Health & any other professionals holding information about the child. If significant medical implications or a medical examination may be required a Paediatrician should be involved. The meeting will decide whether/ how S47 child protection enquiries should be conducted, including if a medical examination is needed, and agree action to be taken to safeguard the child

There is no evidence to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to be suffering significant harm
 Children's services discuss with parents & gain consent for agency checks.

Request a medical assessment for possible physical abuse

New information is found

Outcome-early help assessment offered if threshold not met for statutory intervention

Section 47 enquires carried out

Outcome- Significant harm threshold is met; Child Protection Conference- to be organised within 15 days of the strategy discussion

Outcome- Social Work assessment- child in need S17