

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

Guidance for health professional's attending/contribution to
strategy discussions held under Swindon Child Protection
procedures.

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1. Introduction

Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm there should be a strategy discussion involving local authority children's social care, the police, health and other bodies such as the referring agency, the child's school or nursery, any health or care services the child or family members are receiving.

The job of the Strategy meeting is to:

- 1) Share information
- 2) Decide whether enquiries under section 47 of the Children's act 1989 must be undertaken
- 3) Plan immediate health, social care and police actions.

For this to happen **the right people must be at the table to make the right decisions for the right reasons.**

Attendees at the strategy meeting can vary therefore depending on the concerns specific to the young person at the time although all 3 partners must be represented as a minimum

This document provides a clear structure and guidance for all partners on who those agencies are, when they should be contacted and what they should be doing. This document is based on Working Together 2018 guidance which sets out best practice in ensuring Children are safeguarded effectively.

Strategy meeting are often the first opportunity for multiagency intervention on a vulnerable child. If we can get that right, we can get the rest right.

2. Guidance to Children's Social Care Assistant Team Managers/Social Workers

2.1 If you are the coordinating officer for a strategy discussion only invite contributions from health as detailed in the above flow charts:

- Flow Chart 1: Pre-Birth
- Flow Chart 2: MASH Or Existing Social Work team
- Flow Chart 3: Out of Hours

2.2 Contacting health professionals via alternative routes will cause delay and may lead to the wrong health professional being involved. Also it is not sufficient to invite only one health professional where several health services and health organisations are involved with the child and family.

2.3 As a minimum the following health professionals should always be invited/informed of the strategy discussion although they may not all attend.

- Midwife if involved or mother is known to be pregnant
- GP
- Health visitor /school nurse
- CAMHS/ Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) if known to be involved.
- Named Nurse for GWH/Safeguarding Lead/Paediatrician if GWH known to be involved

2.4 To improve the health response to a request to attend a strategy discussion all health providers have ensured there is a process in place to inform health professionals and to ensure their timely response to this request. There is likely to be several health professionals that are required to attend.

2.5 Under Working Together Guidance;

A local authority social worker and their manager, a health professional and a police representative should, **as a minimum**, be involved in the strategy discussion. Other relevant professionals will depend on the nature of the individual case but may include:

- the professional or agency which made the referral;
- the child's school or nursery; and
- **any health services the child or family members are receiving or may have received recently.**

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

Consider the following when requesting health attendance at strategy discussion:

2.6 Multiple Children: It takes time to gather all the information relating to several children who may be open to several services at the same time e.g. within the acute health setting. This should be factored in when deciding to hold a strategy discussion, as much notice as possible should be given to all health invitees.

2.7 The technical support available (IT/Tel.): To enable multiple people to be involved in the discussion the telephone system would need to be able to (i) cope with the volume of users (ii) be audible enough for all participants to hear the discussion (iii) on a system that will function without time constraints i.e. 24 hours

2.8 Information given prior to the discussion: The health professional in receipt of the request will need to know sufficient detail to enable them to focus the information they will share e.g. the nature of the concern, key dates or timelines

2.9 Primary care: You will need to know at least the practice the child and carers are registered with to ensure the right GP input. This information can be gained by accessing the spine, which MASH have access to. (In hours only refer to Appendix A for list of generic secure e-mail by General Practice. Please put SAFEGUARDING -IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REQUIRED- STRATEGY MEETING in the subject.

3. Guidance for health professional on receipt of a request to attend a strategy discussion

3.1 Strategy discussions are held under local child protection procedures;

http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/swindon/p_ch_protection_enq.html#strategy_discuss

Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm there should be a strategy discussion involving local authority children's social care (including the fostering service, if the child is looked after), the police, health and other bodies such as the referring agency.

(Working together to safeguard children 2018)

3.2 Health professionals are invited to attend under a duty to co-operate with child protection processes in line with the Children Act 1989. Attendance at strategy discussions **must** be given priority, to ensure significant harm or the risk of future significant harm is to be prevented. Any agency can request a strategy meeting.

3.3 Preparation for attendance at strategy discussions:

- You must prioritise your clinical workload to ensure you are able to attend for the full duration of the strategy discussion
- Ensure you have medical/patient records to hand while you contribute to the discussion and familiarise yourself with the case as much as you can.
- Be clear that only the information relevant to safeguarding is being shared for the purpose of the strategy discussion.

3.4 The discussion should be used to:

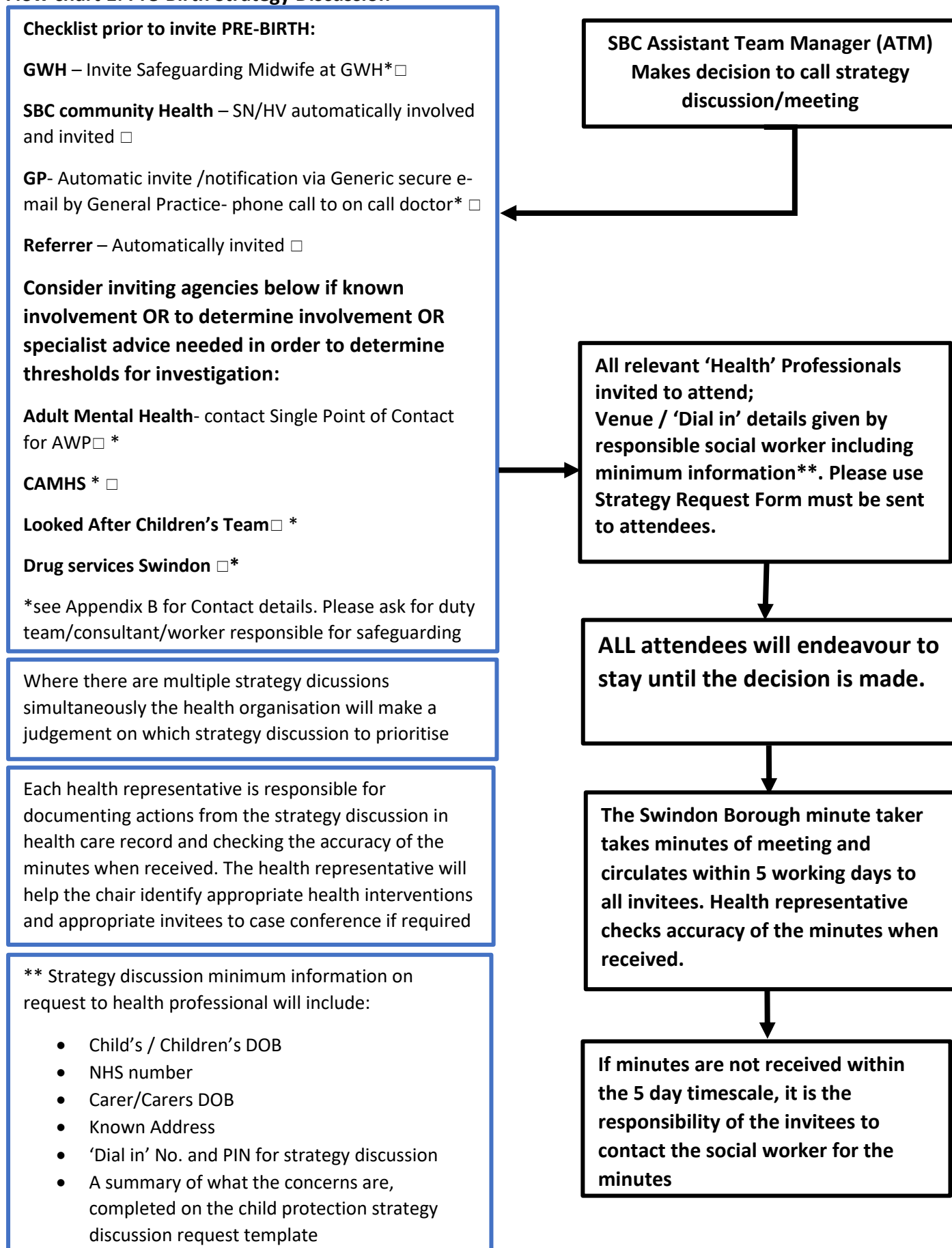
- Share available relevant information;
- Agree the conduct and timing of any criminal investigation; and
- Decide whether enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 should be undertaken.
- Health representatives will be able to guide the chair on appropriate health interventions required immediately after the Strategy as well as indicating appropriate invitees for Case Conference if required.

3.5 Following the strategy discussion

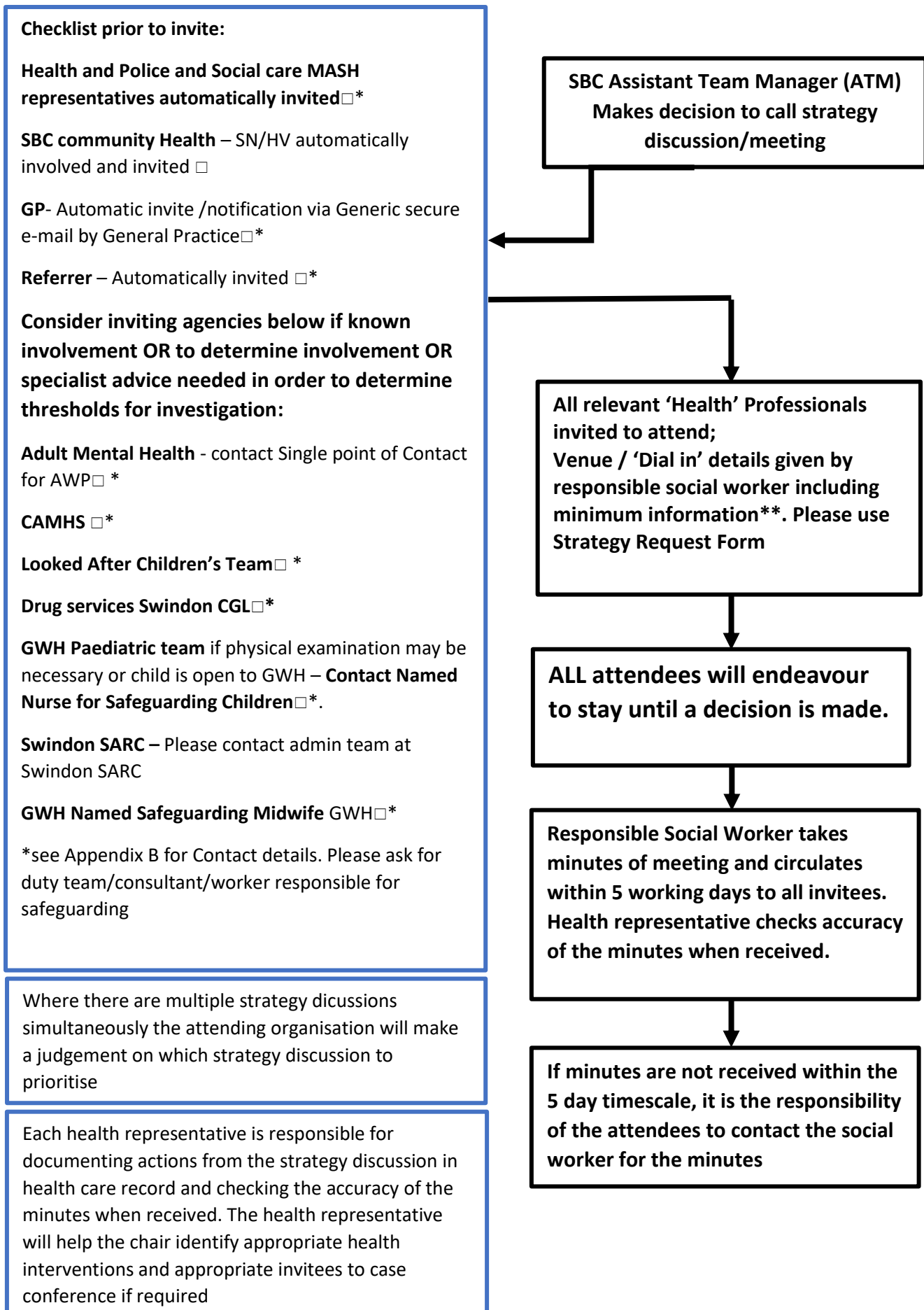
- Ensure a record of the immediate actions from the discussion are recorded as appropriate for your organisation
- Any actions for health professionals must be completed within the agreed timescales.
- If the strategy discussion leads to a further strategy discussion or an Initial Child Protection Conference, ensure continuity of your attendance where possible or indicate appropriate invitees for conference, and ensure that preparations are made to ensure the case conference report is submitted in a timely fashion; ie 2 days before the case conference.

Health protocol for attendance at Child Protection Strategy Discussion

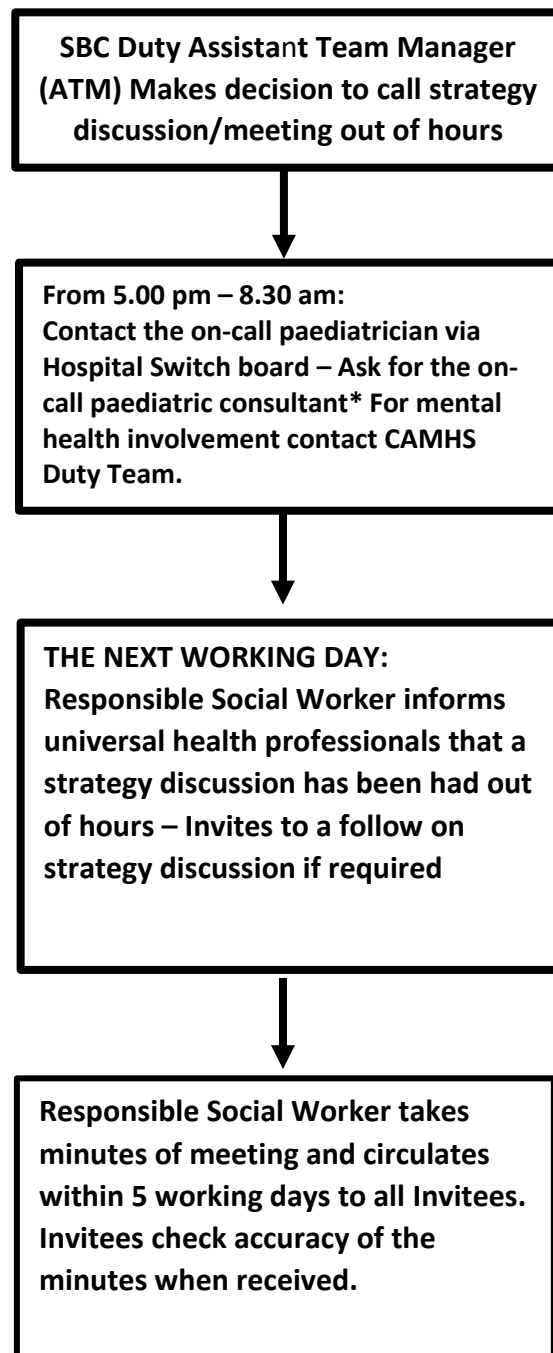
Flow chart 1: Pre-Birth Strategy Discussion



Flow chart 2: Strategy discussion via MASH or Existing Social Work team already involved



Flow chart 3: Strategy Discussions held Out of Hours



The on-call Paediatrician attending the strategy discussion informs GWH Named Professionals of strategy discussion out of hours the next working day and will inform the Named Nurse Swindon Borough Council that an of hours strategy discussion has taken place along with the outcome.

If unable to attend invitees will inform chair of strategy meeting beforehand

Appendix D: generic secure e-mail by General Practice

Practice	Practice Manager	Generic Email Addresses
Abbey Meads Medical Group	Robin Somers	sarah.ely@nhs.net
Ashington House Surgery	Hayley Beresford	prescriptions.ashington@nhs.net
Carfax Health Enterprise	Sue Smith	seniormanager.carfax@nhs.net
Cornerstone Surgery	Ann Caress	reception.cornerstone@nhs.net
Eldene Health Centre	Marina Ringham	enquiries.eldenehealth@nhs.net
Eldene Surgery	Christine Mott	reception.eldenesurgery@nhs.net
Elm Tree Surgery	Barbara Mitchelmore	reception.elmtree@nhs.net
Great Western Surgery	Sarah Smith	greatwestern.surgery@nhs.net
Hawthorn Medical Centre	Angela Brunning	admin.hawthorn@nhs.net
Hermitage Surgery	Penny Nicholas	enquirieshermitage@nhs.net
Kingswood Surgery	Sandy Jack	kingswood.general@nhs.net
Lawn Medical Centre	Colin Robson	lawnmedical.centre@nhs.net
Merchiston Surgery	Hannah Smalley	J83001.merchiston@nhs.net
Moredon Medical Centre	Elaine Smith	moredonmedicalcentre@nhs.net
North Swindon Practice	Chris Gebel	enquiries.homeground@nhs.net
Old Town Surgery	Hayley Slatter	ots@nhs.net
Park Lane Practice	Rob Charles	dparklane@nhs.net
Phoenix Surgery	Dr Peter Swinyard	reception.phoenix@nhs.net
Priory Road Med Centre	Cath Turner	reception.prioryroad@nhs.net
Ridge Green Med Centre	Amrita Dwivedi	amrita.dwivedi@nhs.net
Ridgeway View Family Practice	Karen Fox	reception.ridgewayview@nhs.net
Sparcells Surgery	Sarah Smith	sparcells.surgery@nhs.net
Taw Hill Med Practice	Sarah Francome	thmp.ooh@nhs.net
Victoria Cross Surgery	Sarah Wilson	admin.victoriacross@nhs.net
Westrop Surgery	Richard Rees	admin.westrop@nhs.net
Whalebridge Practice	TBC	admin.whalebridge@nhs.net

Appendix B: Contact Details for Safeguarding Strategy Discussions

Safeguarding Specialist Midwife	Binny Upham	01793 604835 or 07554115863
Specialist Midwife Mental Health & Substance Misuse	Fiona Timlett	01793 604850
Jo Allan	Safeguarding Support Midwife	01793 604835
AWP	During office hours: Swindon Recovery Team (ask for Duty Worker) Out of Hours: Swindon Intensive Service	01793 715000 01793 836820
LAC Team Swindon Borough Council	Sally Anne Harrison	01793 464334
Swindon CAMHS contact	Switchboard	01865 903422
Wiltshire CAMHS	Switchboard	01865 904666
Swindon Drug and Alcohol Service	Switchboard	01793 328150
Named Nurse for Safeguarding GWH	Jo Smith	01793 604945
Consultant of the Week or OOH consultant (GWH).	Via Switchboard (Ask for Paediatric Consultant on duty)	01793 604020