



## Joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards

### Children who are held in custody where mental health is a factor

#### Flowchart

**Young person arrives in police custody and mental health is a factor**

**Police Custody Sergeant carries out a risk assessment on the young person and identifies mental health as a risk**  
(based on the indicators of increased vulnerability or risk in children and young people as set out in the Youth Justice Board Placement Confirmation Form)

**Police Custody Sergeant makes a request for a Health Care Professional (PrimeCare) who will decide if a mental health assessment is required**

Health Care Professional (PrimeCare) will make contact with the most appropriate Mental Health service

Police HCP including attending mental health service considers the functional ability of the detainee rather than simply relying on a medical diagnosis, e.g. it is possible for a person with severe mental illness to be fit for interview.

Police HCP including attending mental health service to advise the Police Custody Sergeant on fitness for interview and whether a further specialist opinion may be required.

Police HCP including attending mental health service to identify risks and inform the Police Custody Sergeant of the following:

- whether the young person's condition
  - is likely to improve
  - will require or be amenable to treatment; and
- an indication of how long it may take for such improvement to take effect

The role of the Police HCP including attending mental health service is to consider the risks and advise the Police Custody Sergeant of the outcome of that consideration. The HCP determination and any advice or recommendations should be made in writing and form part of the custody record.



**Using the information and opinion provided by the HCP including any attending mental health service the custody Sergeant will make an informed decision as to whether the interview will go ahead. If this is different to the advice provided by the HCP. The rationale for the decision will be documented in the custody record**