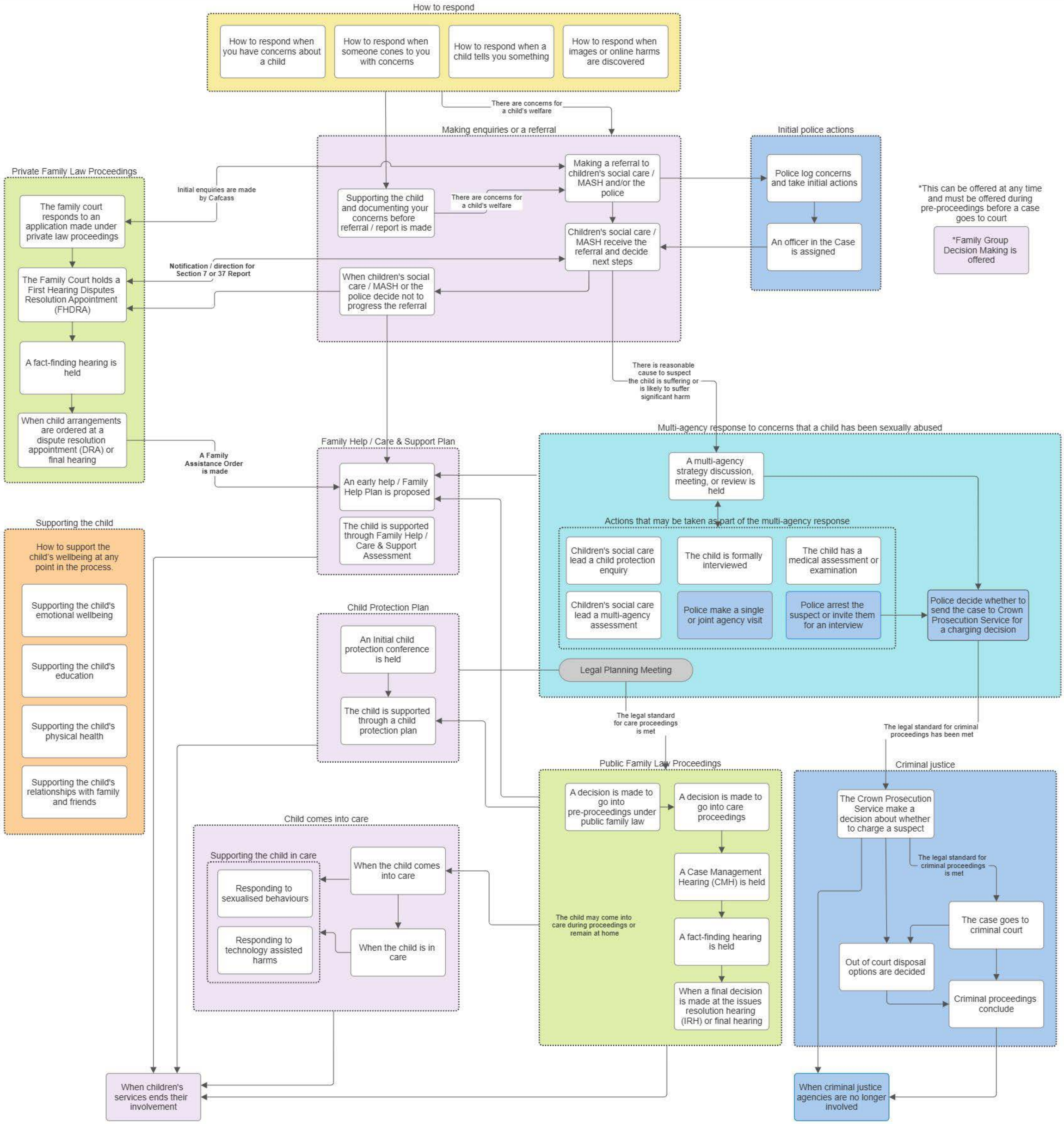
How to respond
How to respond when you have concerns about a child
How to respond when someone cones to you with concerns
How to respond when a child tells you something
How to respond when images or online harms are discovered
There are concerns for a child's welfare
Making enquiries or a referral
Supporting the child and documenting your concerns before referral / report is made
There are concerns for a child's welfare
Making a referral to children's social care / MASH and/or the police
Children's social care / MASH receive the referral and decide next steps
When children's social care / MASH or the police decide not to progress the referral
Initial police actions
Police log concerns and take initial actions
An officer in the Case is assigned
*This can be offered at any time and must be offered during pre-proceedings before a case goes to court
*Family Group Decision Making is offered
Private Family Law Proceedings
Initial enquiries are made by Cafcass
The family court responds to an application made under private law proceedings
Notification / direction for Section 7 or 37 Report
The Family Court holds a First Hearing Disputes Resolution Appointment (FHDRA)
A fact-finding hearing is held
When child arrangements are ordered at a dispute resolution appointment (DRA) or final hearing
A Family Assistance Order is made
There is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm
Multi-agency response to concerns that a child has been sexually abused
A multi-agency strategy discussion, meeting, or review is held
Actions that may be taken as part of the multi-agency response
Children's social care lead a child protection enquiry
The child is formally interviewed
The child has a medical assessment or examination
Children's social care lead a multi-agency assessment
Police make a single or joint agency visit
Police arrest the suspect or invite them for an interview
Police decide whether to send the case to Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision
Legal Planning Meeting
Family Help / Care & Support Plan
An early help / Family Help Plan is proposed
The child is supported through Family Help / Care & Support Assessment
Supporting the child
How to support the child's wellbeing at any point in the process.
Supporting the child's emotional wellbeing
Supporting the child's education
Supporting the child's physical health
Supporting the child's relationships with family and friends
Child Protection Plan
An Initial child protection conference is held
The child is supported through a child protection plan
The legal standard for care proceedings is met
The legal standard for criminal proceedings has been met
Public Family Law Proceedings
A decision is made to go into pre-proceedings under public family law
A decision is made to go into care proceedings
A Case Management Hearing (CMH) is held
A fact-finding hearing is held
When a final decision is made at the issues resolution hearing (IRH) or final hearing
The child may come into care during proceedings or remain at home
Criminal justice
The Crown Prosecution Service make a decision about whether to charge a suspect
The legal standard for criminal proceedings is met
The case goes to criminal court
Out of court disposal options are decided
Criminal proceedings conclude
Child comes into care
Supporting the child in care
Responding to sexualised behaviours
Responding to technology assisted harms
When the child comes into care
When the child is in care
When children's services ends their involvement
When criminal justice agencies are no longer involved