

Fabricated and Induced Illness Pathway

Practitioner/Agency has concerns that there may be concerns around fabricated or induced illness

1. **Medically Unexplained Symptoms** – the child complains of symptoms which are not explained by any known pathology but there are likely underlying (usually psychosocial) factors in the child. The caregivers acknowledge this and work collaboratively with health professionals in the best interests of the child.
2. **Perplexing Presentations** – the actual state of the child’s physical/mental health is not clear yet but there are alerting signs of possible FII. There is no perceived risk of immediate serious risk to the child’s physical health or life.
3. **Fabricated or Induced Illness** – this is a form of child maltreatment in which a child is, or is very likely to be, harmed due to caregivers behaviour and actions which are carried out in order to convince health professionals that the child’s health is impaired (or more impaired than is actually the case).



Practitioner to seek permission from the parent to liaise with health care providers and/or other agencies involved in the child's care

DO NOT inform the parents of concerns of Fabricated and Induced Illness at this time (please refer to your agencies guidance on information sharing) Please also see the agency specific section within the LSCP FII Policy for additional guidance



Practitioner/Agency from a non healthcare setting

- If concerns of FII still exist following liaison with other agencies. Please refer to Children's Services on 01522 782111.
- If threshold not met for Children’s Services, consider completing the Early help Assessment and instigating Team Around the Child support for the family. More information can be found here: <https://www.lincolnshirescp.org.uk/>
- Continue to record all information within your records and discuss with your safeguarding lead. If further concerns arise, refer again to Children’s Services.



Practitioner/Agency from a healthcare setting

- If concerns of FII still exist following liaison with other agencies discuss your concerns with the safeguarding team
- Consider if a Health Professionals meeting is required to substantiate or allay concerns re FII
- If concerns of FII still exist. Please refer to children's social care on 01522 782111
- If concerns of FII are not substantiated on-going multi-agency health support should be maintained to meet the needs of the child

Following Safeguarding referral to CSC (01522 782111) and allocation of the case to a social worker

From the point of the referral, all professionals involved with the child should work together as follows:

- Lead responsibility for action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare lies with Children's Social Care ;
- Any suspected case of fabricated or induced illness may involve the commission of a crime and therefore the police should always be involved;
- The paediatric consultant, CAMHS consultant or consultant psychologist is the lead health professional and therefore has lead responsibility for all decisions pertaining to the child's health care.



Strategy Discussion or Meeting

If the child is at risk of immediate significant for example if a child's life is in danger, an immediate Strategy Discussion should take place. Unless there is an emergency or immediate risk of harm a Strategy Meeting, chaired by a manager from Children's Social Care should be convened.

It may be necessary to have more than one Strategy Discussion/Meeting. This is likely where the child's circumstances are very complex and a number of discussions are required to consider whether and, if relevant, when to initiate a Section 47 Enquiry.

Consideration should be given to the need to compile a joint agency chronology.



Outcome of strategy discussion/meeting

- **Concerns not substantiated** – the family may still require services to support them and promote the child's welfare via Early Help or Child in Need
- **Concerns substantiated but no continuing risk of significant harm** – the family may still require services to support them and promote the child's welfare via Early Help or Child in Need.
- **Concerns substantiated and continuing risk of significant harm** – An initial child protection conference must be convened
- **A decision must be made about what information will be shared with the parent/carer by whom and when this will be shared**