**10.2 Resolution of Professional Disagreements and Escalation Protocol**

**Appendix 1 – Dissent at/arising from a Child Protection Conference**

**Dissent at/arising from a Child Protection Conference**

If the chair of a conference is unable to achieve a consensus as to the initiation of a child protection plan or not, s/he will make a decision and note any dissenting views.

The agency or individual who dissents from the chair’s decision must determine whether s/he wishes to further challenge the result.

In the event that the dissenting professional believes the decision reached by the chair places a child at (further) risk of significant harm, s/he should formally raise the matter with her/his agency’s designated lead.

If that designated lead concurs with the concerns of the professional, s/he should immediately alert a local authority safeguarding manager.

In the light of the representations made, the local authority safeguarding manager must determine whether to:

* Uphold the decision reached by the conference chair or
* Require that a review conference be brought forward to review the Child Protection plan or
* Convene a second Initial Child Protection Case Conference (ICPCC) if no child protection plan was initiated at the first ICPCC).

In the event that the outcome of these alternate steps fail to satisfy the concerned professional, the issue should be put as a matter of urgency to the chair of the NSCP who can determine what further responses (if any) are a justifiable and proportionate response.