Child Protection

Removal at Birth

Interagency Procedure

Responsible Groups: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board
LTHT Trust Wide Child Protection Steering Group

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Review Date: 20th January 2011
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| Date Issued                                                            | April 2002 |
| Approved by                                                            | LTHT Trustwide Safeguarding Children  
|                                                                        | Steering Group  
|                                                                        | Leeds Safeguarding Children Board  
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### Consultation Process adopted in developing the policy

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Removal At Birth
Inter-Agency Procedures

1. Introduction

When a decision has been reached to remove a child at birth following a multi-agency assessment the following procedure must be followed by all agencies involved.

2. Procedure

2.1 Social Care must contact Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) LTHT Safeguarding Children Team on 0113 3923937 as soon as possible once a decision to remove a baby at birth has been reached and a plan agreed.

2.2 It will be agreed during the telephone discussion between Social Care and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team or the Midwife if out of hours what the plan of removal is and agreed what actions will be taken and by whom.

2.3 The discussion between Social Care and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team will be take place between the relevant professionals via the telephone or face to face if required.

2.4 The discussion between Social Care and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team will formulate a plan in preparation for the birth. The plan will consider whether the baby will be removed immediately after birth or in the postnatal period and if the mother/partner/extended family are to have supervised/unsupervised contact with the child. Please be aware LTHT staff will be unable to supervise contact.

2.5 The plan will be confirmed in writing by Social Care.

2.6 The plan will include: Legal arrangements, feeding regimes feeding issues out of hours arrangements, emotional support for mother/parents.

2.7 LTHT Safeguarding Team will send a copy of the agreed plan or minutes of a face to face meeting via email/fax alert to the out of hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT)/the Delivery Suites at LGI and SJUH. The team will also produce a Midwifery Alert which contains the information and disseminate this to all relevant midwifery clinical areas including community.
2.8 When the woman presents in labour or is admitted in preparation for delivery the admitting midwife on Delivery suite will check the file of Communication Forms for relevant details on the woman and notify the named Social Worker or Emergency Duty Team if out of office hours and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team (24 hours a day/7 days a week) of the admission if the baby is for removal at birth.

2.9 Social Care will issue copies of the Court Orders and final plan to Safeguarding Children Department (in office hours), which will be disseminated as appropriate. Out of hours Social Care or the Police will ensure that they give delivery suite staff verbal confirmation that either an Emergency Protection Order or Police Protection Order has been obtained, but no action can be taken by LTHT staff until a copy of the order has been received. Whilst, staff are awaiting a copy of the order if there is an attempt to remove the baby from the hospital the police must be contacted to attend immediately.

2.10 LTHT midwifery staff must follow the ‘Flowchart for Removal of a Baby at Birth’ (July 2010) in all instances of removal of a baby, see Appendix 1.

Regular communication between Social Worker or Team Manager and Safeguarding Children Named Nurse / Nurse Advisor will ensure that all staff from both agencies will be fully briefed about any changes in circumstances.

If communication has to take place outside of office hours, EDT can liaise with the midwives on the ante/postnatal ward or Delivery Suite. These midwives will then be responsible for ensuring the Safeguarding Children Named Nurse / Nurse Advisor and Social Worker or Team Managers are informed.
Contact Details

Children and Young People Social Care
Merrion House
Leeds
LS2 8 QB

Telephone:
Merrion House: 0113 2478652
Call Centre: 0113 222 4403
Emergency Duty Team: 0113 2409536

Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust Safeguarding Children Team
Room 29, Floor C
Nurses Home
Leeds General Infirmary
Calverley Street
Leeds
LS1 3EX

Telephone:
LTHT Safeguarding Team : 0113 3923937
Mobile:
Fax: 0113 3923925

Community Midwifery Office:
Telephone: 0113 3059016

Leeds General Infirmary Delivery Suite:
Telephone: 0113 3923830
St James’s University Hospital: Delivery Suite:
Telephone: 0113 2065372
FLOWCHART FOR REMOVAL OF A BABY AT BIRTH

On arrival to delivery suite check CP file. If there is an alert which states that baby is to be removed, inform named Social Worker/EDT and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team

Baby is for removal on delivery suite. Woman cannot care for the baby on the postnatal ward

- Woman has given consent antenatally for removal and this is documented on the Midwifery Alert
  - Yes
  - No
    - Baby can be legally removed by staff or social worker

- It is illegal to remove a baby from a woman unless she gives her verbal consent to staff or social workers OR see box a) and b)

- Box a)
  - A Police Protection Order or Emergency Protection Order has been obtained (PPO/EPO).
  - Staff MUST wait until they have a copy of the PPO from police or social worker before removing the baby. Record time/who gave confirmation of PPO in the records. A copy of the PPO should be obtained and filed in the hospital records

- Box b)
  - Staff believe the baby may be in immediate danger from woman/partner. All concerns must be fully documented. Inform Social Worker/EDT/police immediately after removal from danger. Document time of calls and actions taken

For removal but woman can care for the baby whilst in hospital/on postnatal area

- Ensure woman understands that she cannot remove the baby from hospital premises
- Any attempt to take the baby from hospital must be reported to the police, who may need to attend the ward immediately and Social Care, who may apply for an immediate Police Protection Order (PPO)

- There must be liaison between the ward staff and Social Care and LTHT Safeguarding Children Team regarding the plan for discharge

On discharge from hospital the baby will either:
1. Be placed voluntarily in foster care or the care of a relative
2. An Emergency Protection Order (EPO) or Interim Care Order (ICO) will be obtained by Social Care