



Building Resilience in Families (BRIF) Panels

What is the BRIF) Panel?

The panel is a multi-agency team working effectively to offer very early intervention to children and their families, in order to prevent and reduce the escalation of incidents or issues.

Vision of the BRIF panel

It will be made up of a consistent team of partners from different sectors within each locality, with a joint commitment to working together more effectively to intervene early. This integrated working will help reduce delay by streamlining processes.

What the panel will look like

- The BRIF Panel will be made up of a core group which could include Housing, 0-19 Service, Police, Adult Mental Health, Children Centres and any other key partners/agencies relevant to families or to the issues prevalent in the locality.
- The panel will be held bi-weekly (once every two weeks). This will allow for time to gain referrals and to action any points from the previous panel.
- Meetings will last for a maximum of two hours and will serve as a facilitator for change in how we work together.
- Time will be allocated at Panel meetings to discuss emerging issues in the community.
- All agencies within the panel will work on a Rota basis to chair meetings.
- Locally, the panel will be managed to suit that community needs.

- Schools can refer through to the panel by completing a consent form and email to the contact person for their locality

Benefits of the BRIF panel

- Members will talk regularly away from the panel which will lead to more collaborative working between services.
- The panel will bring together partners to work holistically around families.
- The panel will eliminate barriers between services including referral processes.
- The panel will provide a much-needed arena whereby all can have open and honest conversations about some of the barriers we face and more importantly how to overcome these.
- The key points of contact will allow managers to have effective communication and encourage their teams around a more joined up way of working.
- The panel will help to further embed locality teams.

Criteria for the BRIF panel

The only 'criteria' for families brought to the BRIF panel is that they are **not** open to Early Help or statutory Children Services. Professionals may see an emerging need within a family and feel that they would benefit from other services or feel that the input of ideas and suggestions from the panel. There are **no** set referral criteria as this will take away from the purpose of the panel.

Examples of cases brought to BRIF panel

- Concerns around a family not engaging with health.

- Professional notices mother is struggling with child/children.
- Visible tension between parents.
- Development milestones not being met.
- Antisocial behaviour.
- Issues around living conditions.
- Poor school attendance.
- Struggling to gain a school place
- Families who have no recourse to public funds.

Consent

Verbal consent must be received from all parents prior to being discussed at panel. There have been little or no issues in obtaining consent as families are keen for the support to meet their emerging need. Where families decline to give consent, they will not be discussed at panel.

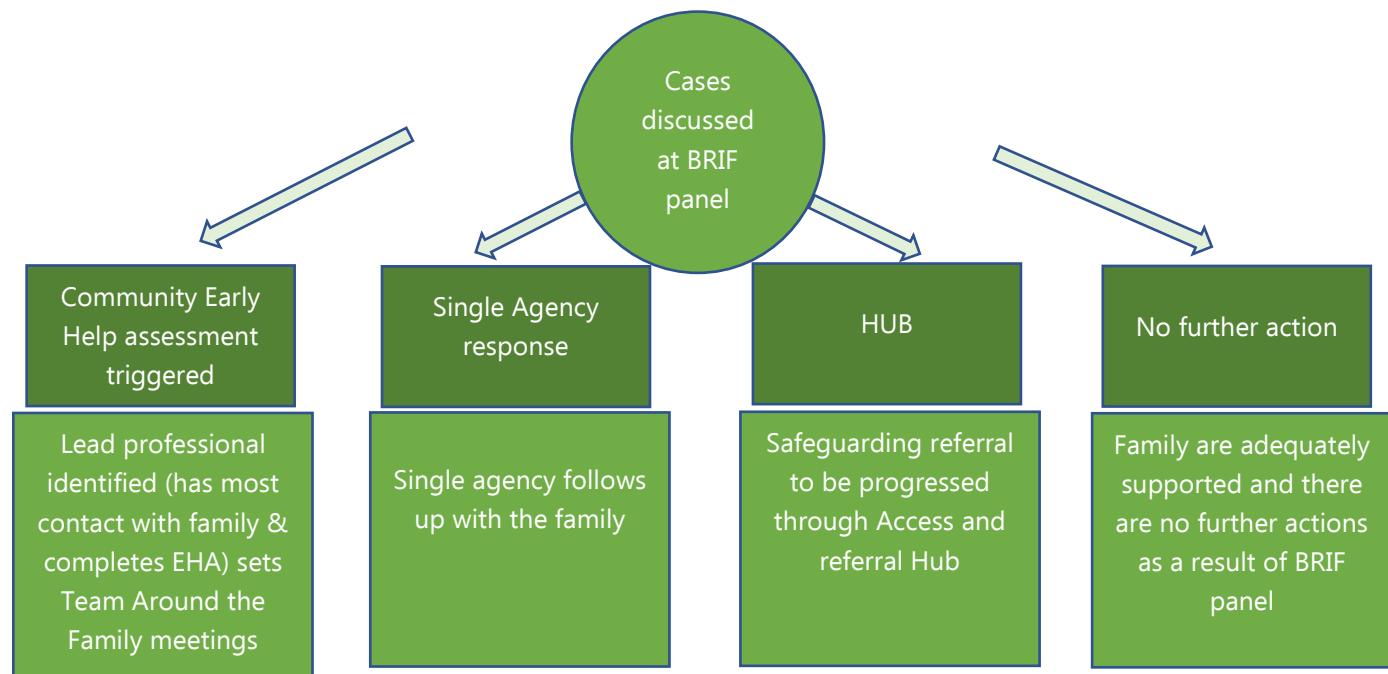
Impact measurement of cases discussed at BRIF panels

Cases discussed at the BRIF panel are recorded in the action log section of the Minute Template document. Information collated include Follow Up required, Changes as a result of the panel and the impact on the children and families. A detailed report will be produced from this over time.

If the case requires a Community Early Help Assessment, the impact of the plan is measured which can be determined by using Family Star.

Emerging issues

These are also discussed during the BRIF panel and appropriate responses are agreed. This will be recorded and reviewed to track any outcomes. Also, that panel members can bring their concerns to panel.



Process for the BRIF Panel

- **Cases brought in** - Professionals in Panel are responsible for bringing in cases. Cases should not be open under statutory services or early help, to ensure focus on early intervention.
- **Cases sent out** - Before panel, all referrals should be sent to Chair. A maximum of 4 cases should be discussed at each.
- **Action for cases** - Chair to print off referral cases to be discussed at panel.
- **Discussion of cases** - Use the 'Strengthening Families' model to look at strengths/risks and how these can be addressed safely using services within the community.
- **Action for panel** - Relevant agencies represented at the panel, to be responsible for stipulated actions.
- **Lead for cases** - Identify who the allocated Lead Professional for each case should be.
- **Plan** - Discussion should be held around whether a community Early Help Assessment should be open.
- **Outcome** - Discuss implemented actions and outcomes at the next panel meeting.
- **Report** - Send concise report to Manager to collate impact of actions delivered to the families.
- **Update** - Review past cases, done in the last 3 months and update on progress.

Contact details for further information

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