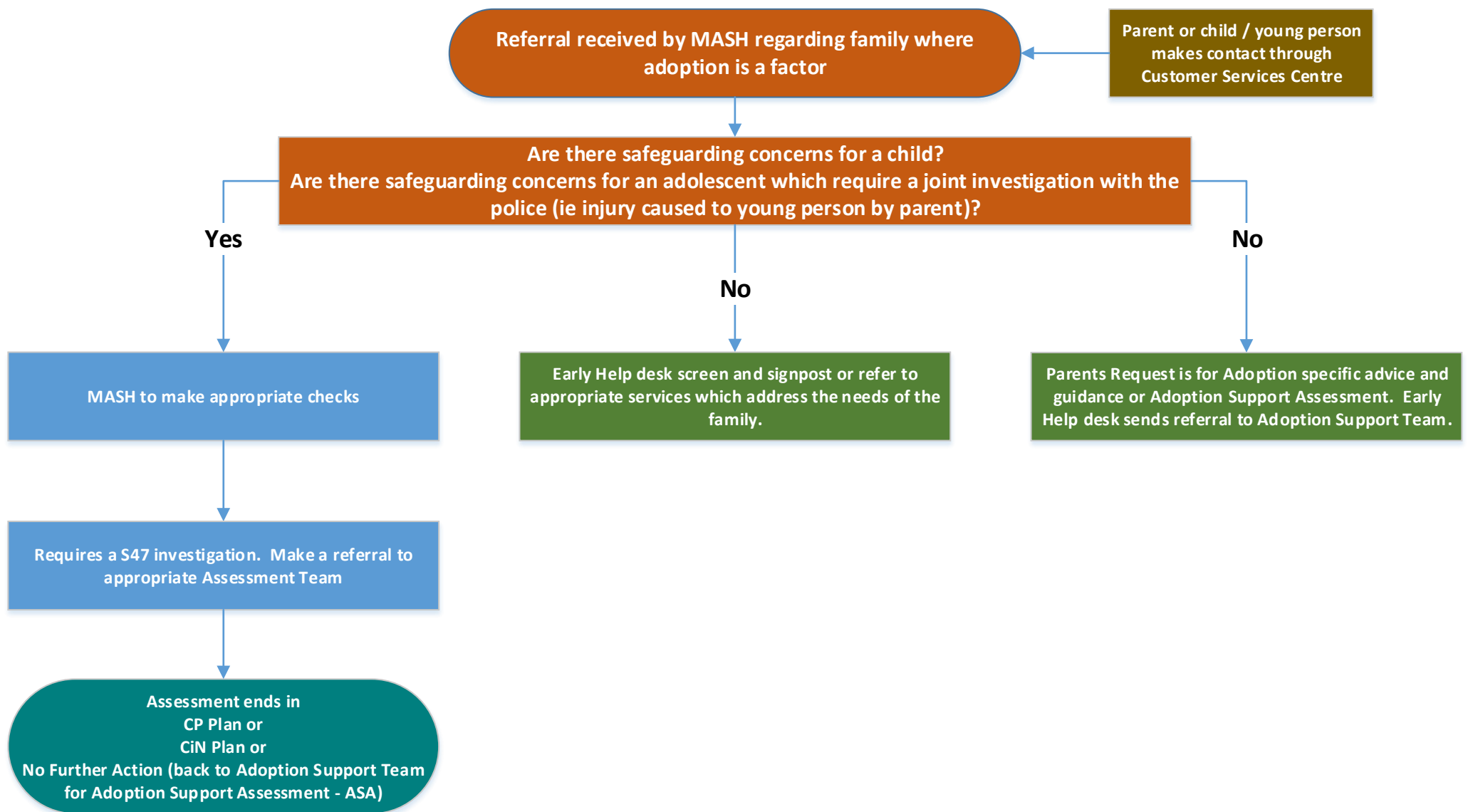
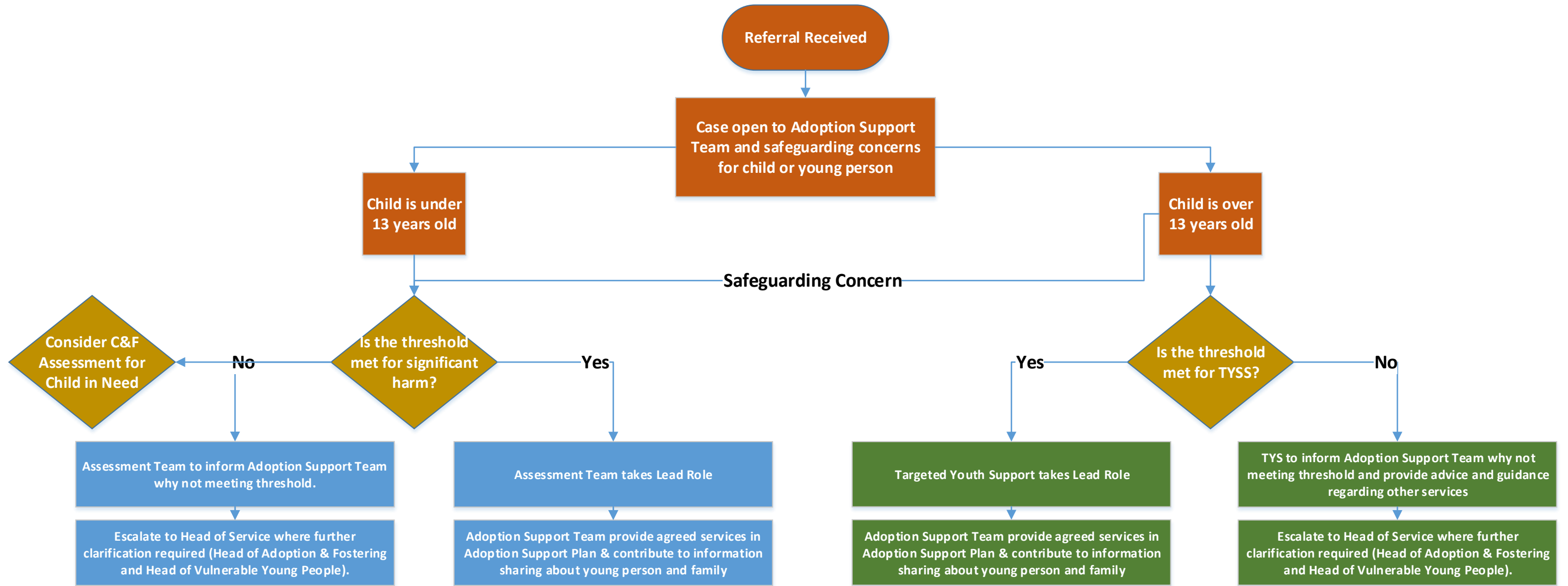


## Response to contacts and referrals where adoption is a factor



## Safeguarding Referrals for open Adoption cases



### Significant Harm

- The Children Act 1989 introduced Significant Harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children.
- Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect are all categories of Significant Harm.
- There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. Sometimes a single violent episode may constitute significant harm but more often it is an accumulation of significant events, both acute and longstanding, which interrupt, damage or change the child's development.

See Social Work Procedures Manual Section 3.1.5

### TYSS 'in need' criteria

- A young person is experiencing difficulty in family relationships where significant risk of family breakdown or family breakdown has happened;
- A young person is exhibiting high-risk behaviour – risk of self-harm or harm to others;
- Young person becoming involved in offending behaviour;
- Young person at risk of child sexual exploitation (section 17 – child in need);
- 16/17 year old at risk of homelessness (section 20 – request for accommodation).

See Social Work Procedures Manual Section 3.3.4

A Family Group Conference to engage families & young person may avoid or reduce the need for S20 Accommodation or prevent family breakdown.  
Homeless 16/17 year olds – refer to Joint Housing Protocol

Where a disruption takes place after an Adoption Order has been made, it is Children's Services Policy that a Disruption Meeting should be offered as part of the adoption support provided to the child and adoptive family – see HCC Social Work Procedures Manual for Disruption of Adoptive and Long Term Foster Placements (section 8.11)  
Adoption Support Team to consider need for an Adoption Disruption Meeting