

Terms of Reference

Child In Need Panel

1. Purpose;

The Child in Need Panel is to support Social Workers to step down or resolve children who are subject to Child in Need plans who have been open to children social care for Six months or more; and families where practitioners are stuck in terms of moving children and young people forward to the point of closure or step down, or indeed the need to progress in terms of child protection.

The Child In Need panel is a mechanism to support practitioners with working at the right level of intervention with children and young people. This panel is not a way in which to step all children and young people down. Those children where there is a clear plan to step down should be progressed in the usual way, as per the process map and practice guidance.

The Panel will consider the following

- Child in Need plans which have been open for Six months or more.
- Child in Need children and young people where practitioners feel stuck and unable to progress towards case closure.
- Children subject to Supervision Orders.

2. Aim;

To provide support and intervention to children and families; to ensure that our child in need planning is robust, timely and purposeful.

Our aim is to be involved with children, young people and families only when we need to be.

The aim of the meeting is to review the progress of the plan and reduce drift and delay, addressing any barriers to progress the work/support involved with child and young person.

Our aim is to ensure that there is scrutiny and challenge, alongside support to practitioners ensuring that children and young people and their families do not experience drift and delay.

As such the panel will have the following functions;

The panel will;

- consider the voice of the child, their wishes and feelings and their lived experience;
- review all existing children who have been on a child in need plan for more than 6 months
- ensure that support and intervention are in place to reduce the level of need and develop and support families to develop their own support networks
- ensure that all support options are considered within any part of the service

- ensure that all agencies are aware of these children and young people's needs and are working collaboratively to ensure that children and families are working with agencies at a level that they need to. Identify wherever possible solutions to step down barriers.
- Consider any work or resources that are needed to ensure that children and young people are supported at the earliest opportunity, reducing drift and delay and addressing any barriers to progress to ensure children and young people so that statutory intervention is not needed
- provide consistency in decision making.
- Provide scrutiny, support and challenge to plans and progression of plans

3. Frequency;

The panel will meet monthly in each locality and for Children with Disability.

4. Outcome;

Children feel safe at home with their family/community and are able to remain at home and do not need statutory intervention.

Children are not having intervention that is not purposeful.

5. Panel Structure

- Chair of Panel –Group Manager
- Panel Administrator
- Team Manager and Social Worker presenting
- IRO when discussing Supervision Orders
- Court Case Manager
- Targeted Support Locality Group Manager

6. Administration

Child in need Panels will be held once a month in each locality area and within Children with Disabilities.

Panel members will have read the case file pre panel; to include the last 3 month core groups, last supervisions, and CIN review meeting record.

Social Workers will present the plan to panel members for consideration, scrutiny, support and challenge.

Management oversight from panel members to be recorded child or young person case record to be recorded within three working days of the panel.

Panel chair to ensure that the management oversight is recorded.

The panel will maintain a case tracker where agreed actions are recorded and then used to review progression.

7. Attendance and Process

The Panel Chair will ask the Social Worker and Team Manager to provide a succinct account of case and the current plan, contingency planning and what the next steps are.

Independent Reviewing Officers are to attend the meeting or provide a written synopsis of their independent view of the current situation. This is to ensure that we are achieving the aims of the Supervision Order and Child In need plan in line with the goals of the child/young person and their family.

Panel decisions and planning

Panel management oversight will be record on the child's case file with agreed actions and timescales within 3 working days of the panel.

Following Child in Need Panel

Accountability for panel oversight and tracking of the agreed actions will be undertaken by the Locality Group Manager.

The Group Manager will review progress and scrutinise actions to ensure progress.

Where actions have not been undertaken within agreed timescales discussions will take place between Team Manager and Group Manager to ensure progression.

There is an expectation that Team Managers drive forward actions from Child In Need Panel are discussed within Supervision.

If the actions haven't been completed within the relevant timescale Group Manager to escalate with Team Manager to discuss next steps.

If the case hasn't progressed Group Manager will further escalate and discuss with the relevant Head of Service.

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