

Terms of Reference

Child Protection Panel

1. Purpose;

The purpose of this panel is to assist and support the discussion were children and young people have been subject to child protection plans longer than 7 months. Children and young people will be selected between team managers, group managers and the Independent Reviewing Service, (IRS) Service Manager

2. Aim;

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

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.

The panel will focus on improving the timeliness, quality, and planning of children and families within Children's Social Care who have a child protection plan.

Our child protection planning is not always affective in reducing significant risk to children and improving their lived experience, with at times child protection planning going on to long without meaningful change.

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 in child protection planning.

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 protection plan for more than 7 months.
- ensure that support and intervention are in place to reduce risk and support families to develop their own safety networks .
- ensure that all support options are considered .
- ensure that all agencies are aware of these children and young people's needs and are working collaboratively to reduce the risk of harm the children are experiencing.
- 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 are not at risk of significant harm.

- provide consistency in decision making.

3. Frequency;

The panel will meet monthly.

4. Outcome;

Children feel safe at home with their family/community and are able to remain at home.

Children are not at risk of significant harm for long periods where intervention is not reducing risk and intervention is purposeful.

5. Panel Structure

- Chair of Panel – IRS Service Manager
- Panel Administrator
- Locality Group Manager
- Team Manager and Social Worker presenting
- CP chair (if unable to attend to provide synopsis)
- Court Case Manager

6. Administration

Child Protection Panels will be held once a month in each locality area. Panel members will have pre read the case to included recent 3 months core groups, last supervisions, and harm matrix. Social Workers to present the plan to panel members.

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 Management Oversight is recorded.

Case tracker where agreed actions are recorded.

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.

CP chairs to attend meeting or provide synopsis of their independent view of the current situation and their view on the next steps in order to ensure the case is progress in right direction of travel.

Panel decisions and planning

Oversight will be record on the child's case file with agreed actions and timescales.

Following Child Protection Panel

Agreed actions will be tracked by IRS Service Manager and will review actions and scrutinise where actions have not been undertaken within agreed timescales.

If the actions haven't been completed IRS Service Manager to escalate to GM to discuss next steps. If the case hasn't progressed CP chairs to escalate the case into DRP to team manager or GM.

Version 2

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