



Centre for Professional Practice

### Practice Briefing Note 13

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Good Practice Guidelines regarding step down of children subject to child protection plans</b>
<b>Effective From:</b>	13/11/2017
<b>Practice Note:</b>	<p>It should only be in exceptional circumstances that consideration should be given to stepping down at the first Review Child Protection Conference. Evidence suggests that at the 3 month stage work such as assessments, monitoring, evidence of sustained change will not have taken place.</p> <p>Research has confirmed that it is good practice when stepping down from a Child Protection plan that an active Child in Need Plan is established. This will ensure that any outstanding aspects of the plan are completed. West Midlands procedures state the discontinuation of the child protection plan does not necessarily mean that the family is no longer in need of services and / or support. When a decision is made to discontinue a child protection plan, arrangements should always be in place to consider with the family what further help and support might be offered through a Child In Need Plan. The Child In Need plan should be maintained for a period of 12 weeks before further Step Down is considered.</p>
<b>Reason:</b>	To ensure good practice guidelines are followed regarding the step down of children subject to child protection plans
<b>Adopted at:</b>	The IRO Team Meeting chaired by Howard Woolfenden on 13/10/2017
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Darren Shaw Lead for Professional Practice
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