|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local Authority**  **Social Work Evidence Template**  **(Final Statement)** | In the Family Court sitting at |
| In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

**Use one template per family**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current legal status** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local Authority and Social Worker Details** | |
| Court case number |  |
| Filed by | Gateshead Local Authority |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, eg 1st, 2nd (NB do not use the template for initial statements) |  |
| Social work statement number of this witness, including position statements and initial statements eg 1st, 2nd, 3rd and date of statement |  |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s Social Work England registration number |  |
| I have been the allocated social worker for [insert name(s)] since [date(s)] |  |

**The facts in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of Completion: |  |

**Please ensure that you update the page numbers on the table by clicking on the table followed by the “update” tab, selecting “update page numbers only” once the statement is completed.**

**Table of contents**

[**1.** **Child/ren’s details** 3](#_Toc71894457)

[**2.** **The social work chronology** 3](#_Toc71894458)

[**3.** **Analysis of risk and protective factors** 3](#_Toc71894459)

[**4.** **Child impact analysis and child/ren’s views** 3](#_Toc71894460)

[**5.** **Analysis of parenting capacity** 3](#_Toc71894461)

[**6.** **Analysis of wider family and friends capability** 4](#_Toc71894462)

[**7.** **The proposed S31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis** 4](#_Toc71894463)

[**8.** **The range of views of parties and significant others** 4](#_Toc71894464)

[**9.** **Statement of procedural fairness** 4](#_Toc71894465)

[**10.** **The welfare checklist in full for reference** 5](#_Toc71894466)

# **1. Child/ren’s details**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **2. The social work chronology**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **3. Analysis of risk and protective factors**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **4. Child impact analysis and child/ren’s views**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **5. Analysis of parenting capacity**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **6. Analysis of wider family and friends capability**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **7. The proposed S31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **8. The range of views of parties and significant others**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **9. Statement of procedural fairness**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# **10. The welfare checklist in full for reference**

The full Children Act checklist, to be used in care and supervision proceedings is found at section 1 (3) (a) – (g) and requires the court to have regard to the following matters:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (a) | The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of his/her/their age and understanding); |
| (b) | Their physical, emotional and educational needs; |
| (c) | The likely effect on them of any change in his/her/their circumstances; |
| (d) | Their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant; |
| (e) | Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering; |
| (f) | How capable each of his/her/their parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her/their needs; |
| (g) | The range of powers available to the court under this Act (Children Act 1989) in the proceedings in question. |

The full Adoption and Children Act welfare checklist, to be used in care proceedings where the plan is for adoption and in placement proceedings, is found in section 1 (4) (a) – (f) and requires the court and the adoption agency to have regard to the following matters (among others):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (a) | the child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings regarding the decision (considered in the light of the child’s age and understanding); |
| (b) | the child’s particular needs; |
| (c) | the likely effect on the child (throughout their life) of having ceased to be a member of the original family and become an adopted person; |
| (d) | the child’s age, sex, background and any of the child’s characteristics which the court or agency considers relevant; |
| (e) | any harm (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989 (c. 41)) which the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering; |
| (f) | the relationship which the child has with relatives, and with any other person in relation to whom the court or agency considers the relationship to be relevant, including:   1. the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so, 2. the ability and willingness of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, to provide the child with a secure environment in which the child can develop, and otherwise to meet the child’s needs, 3. the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child. |