**Regional Transfer Procedure for CIN and CPP**

Regional Directors of Children’s Services have agreed a temporary ‘relaxation’ of the *North West Notification and Transfer of Children Subject of Child Protection Plans across Local Authority Boundaries Procedure* and *North West Children in Need Moving across Local Authority Boundaries Procedure*.

With a significant amount of activity underway virtually, the additional burden of managing case transfer, including through ‘transfer in’ conferences is not in anyone’s interest, least of all vulnerable children.  As such, being responsive to the specific level of risk, both referring and receiving Local Authorities should operate flexibly to ensure children are supported, safely and appropriately.  The overriding principles of the Procedures still apply (see below), but consideration should be given to more flexible inter-authority co-operation including

* Communication and information sharing in place of formal ‘referral’ of cases to allow continuity of Social Worker
* Where visits are deemed both safe and necessary, the ‘receiving LA’ (i.e. that where the child currently resides) should agree to conduct that visit to minimise unnecessary travel and for safeguarding purposes, in line with both Public Health advice and general duties to safeguard children with their area.

**Principles**

1. This procedure should be applied with regard to the following:
2. The child’s welfare and safety is paramount
3. Promoting and creating positive communication and information sharing between referring and receiving Local Authority Areas in respect of children subject of Child Protection Plans
4. Promoting effective practice to drift and delay for the child and their parents/carers and to ensure children are safeguarded
5. Ensuring services in the local area are identified and offered in a timely manner to children suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm who move across Local Authority boundaries
6. Planning is robust and timely and takes account of all available information

This relaxation will be kept under review and return to full application of the protocol will be reintroduced in a planned way.

Tony Decrop

Assistant Director, Chair North West Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Group