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Leicestershire Procedure for Supervision Order Procedure

Applies to- All children

1. Introduction

When considering children subject of Supervision Orders always remember that safeguarding thresholds and procedures should continue to be applied (see LSCPB link to [strategy discussion](#)) and if necessary, alongside any legal interventions.

At any stage during care proceedings under Section 31 (2) of the Children Act 1989 the local authority can be granted a Supervision Order; while a Supervision Order has the same threshold criteria as a Care Order the two orders are completely different in application. A Care Order gives the local authority Parental Responsibility for a child, a Supervision Order does not, but it places a responsibility on the local authority to "advise, assist and befriend" the child and by extension, the people with whom the child lives.

A Supervision Order is designed to allow the local authority to keep a reasonable amount of control over the child where there has been harm or a risk of harm but not enough continuing harm to warrant a Care Order.

The court can impose certain conditions on a child subject to a Supervision Order as outlined in **Schedule 3 (sections 35, 36) Children Act 1989**.



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2. The Supervision Order

A plan as to how a Supervision Order is to be implemented will be submitted to the court during proceedings. Children and young people who are subject of a Supervision Order in Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland (LLR) will have a child's plan in place to ensure that any agreed actions by the family and professionals are clear and outcome focused.

The Supervision Order plan presented to the court within the Court Care Plan will be mirrored in either the Child in Need plan or Child Protection plan. The plan will be specific and purposeful in its aim to reduce risk and build on strengths to support the child in their care arrangement. The plan will be a robust multi agency plan which includes clear review arrangements and a contingency.

For each Supervision Order, management oversight should clearly consider whether the best type of plan for the child is a Child Protection Plan, or a Child in Need Plan dependent on the level of ongoing risk.

During any period of the Supervision Order if risk increases or changes then consideration will be given to whether to escalate to child protection procedures.

Both Child In Need plans and Child Protection plans require multi agency input.

3. Management of Child in Need/ Supervision Order Plans

If a child is subject of a child protection plan and Supervision Order the [LLR child protection procedures and standards](#) apply.

For those children subject to a Child in Need plan and a Supervision Order the following will apply:

- The Child in Need plan and notes of meetings will be evidenced on the child's electronic record.
- For each child subject of a Supervision Order the Supervision Order will be highlighted on their record for ease of identification.
- There will be regular multi agency Child in Need meetings, no less than 6 weekly, for the duration of the Supervision Order. The Child in Need meeting will usually be chaired by the allocated social worker wherever possible, but this will be in line with any locally agreed practice standards.
- Children subject of Supervision Orders will be subject of management oversight via case management supervision in line with the Local Authorities supervision policy.
- The visiting pattern for children subject of supervision orders will be determined by the team manager in line with needs of the child and comply with any local social work visiting expectations. When children are visited, they will be spoken to alone to ensure



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their voice is heard or observed and engaged with if unable to communicate directly their views.

- For Complex Child In Need plans with a Supervision Order consideration will be given to whether additional reviews by an Independent manager is required.

4. Partnership Working

- It is imperative that throughout the child in need/supervision order plan there is multi agency input to the planning and review meetings for the children.
- Particular attention is required to ensure all agencies are aware of the planning process for children subject of Supervision Orders. This will include the GP as well as services involved with the adults as well as the children. (e.g. mental health services, drug and alcohol services)

5. Escalation of Concerns

- At any stage of the Supervision Order if the level of concern or risk begins to escalate then the threshold for initiating child protection procedures as per LLR LSCPb procedures will be actively considered. There will be consideration given to the history of concerns leading to the Supervision Order and the current concerns. This means consideration will be given to a strategy discussion taking place to consider the need for a section 47 enquiry and progression to child protection planning process.
- It may be a single incident that heightens concerns. However careful attention is also required when there is an accumulation of concerns, disengagement from services or a child and family becoming invisible to agencies.
- Changes in circumstances, living arrangements and new partners require robust responses to assess the implications for children.
- Where there is a difference of opinion between agencies in relation to the level of risk or future planning the LSCPb procedures for '[Resolving Professional Disagreements](#)' should be followed without delay.
- Alongside initiating child protection procedures strong consideration should be given to gaining legal advice. Gaining legal advice will follow local departmental decision-making processes.

6. Exit Planning

- A rigorous overview by a Service Manager should be conducted and recorded no later than 6 weeks prior to the expiry date of the Supervision Order to determine if there is a need for the Supervision Order to be extended. This will allow sufficient time for planning a further application. Legal advice should be sought if it is felt a further period of supervision is required.



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- The Service Manager will include the views about the need for an extension of the Supervision Order of the Independent Chair of the Child Protection process, if the child remains subject of a Child Protection Plan.

7. Children Out of County

If a child who is subject to a Supervision Order moves out of county, the local authority area into which the child moves must be notified of the child's move.

Where this is known in advance, the social worker will write to the relevant local authority advising of the move and include a copy of the Supervision Order and a copy of the single assessment and child's plan. This should happen even if Leicestershire, Leicester City or Rutland are remaining responsible for the Supervision Order and the child's plan.

Where there is no or little advance notice of the move, the social worker will phone the relevant local authority to alert them and follow up with sending copies of the documents listed above within 24 hours.



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