**CARE AND RESOURCE PANEL (CARP) – SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Overall Aim**

* To secure good outcomes for individual children, young people and their families and to ensure the efficient use of South Gloucestershire resources.

**What do we mean by good outcomes?**

* Children are supported to live within their family and wider network and community where it is safe to do so.
* Alternative care is local, family based and maintains children in their community.
* Where a child / young person is unable to live within their own family a permanent alternative arrangement is sought at the earliest opportunity.
* All the Children and young people we support are encouraged to have high aspirations and are safe, healthy and enabled to reach their full potential.
* Decisions about children, young people and families are reached together with children, young people, families and partner agencies.
* Where young people become looked after we will work tirelessly with them and their family to secure their return home.
* We will ensure that the services and support we provide meet the diverse needs of our community and especially the most vulnerable children and young people we support.

**How will we meet the Overall Aim?**

There is an expectation that Social Care will have;

* Completed a holistic assessment of the family which includes an assessment of parenting capacity when young people become looked after or when we are exploring their return home after extended period in care.
* Understanding to what extent the support provided to the family has addressed the presenting issue and underlying causes. Interventions should be evidence based.
* Developed and reviewed plans with the family and other agencies.
* Ensured access to the necessary services and resources (team around the family approach) to meet the families’ assessed needs and underlying causes.
* Involved family and wider family in identifying their own solutions using the Family Network Meetings
* A clear understanding of how we will achieve permanency for the child, young person and family.
* A clear understanding of how the child, young person will have high aspirations and achieve their full potential.

**What the Panel Will Do?**

Decision making regarding thresholds for section 20 single agency placements including:

* Retrospective emergency placements decisions (next available panel)
* Young People presenting as Homeless (no more than 10 days in retrospect)
* UASC presentations
* Children with additional health needs and disabilities
* Placement breakdown and disruptions
* Re-unification (planned and unplanned) and discharge plans, including looked after young people aged 16/17 who are supported under S20.
* Care leavers accommodation requests
* Consider placement changes where there is an increased cost requested and where the placement is only funded through Children’s Social Care.
* Decision making re specialist resources requiring a funding decision, e.g. parent and child placements / parenting assessments as part of future planning of child becoming looked after
* Regularly review and monitor the high cost placements and the use of internal resources to ensure the efficient use of the full range placements and resources available.
* Monitor and record unmet needs and service provision gaps which will be included in the annual refresh of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy.

Care and Resource panel will facilitate discussions where the Service Manager agrees that a broader discussion would assist the care Retrospective decisions for emergency looked after children; Private proceedings where there is significant Social Care involvement and Proceedings being led by other authorities who are suggesting we take responsibility

For children and young people with complex needs, with any combination of medical, health, education and social care need, the panel will provide advice, creative and flexible local solutions to ensure that local services which support social inclusion are maximised prior to the consideration of specialist out of area provision.

Care and Resource panel may identify cases which need to go to MARP

**Panel Membership**

* Head of Service – Chair
* Service Managers, Children’s Improvement/0 – 25 – Deputy Chairs
* Service Manager Preventative Services
* Service Managers – ART/Localities/Corporate Parenting where possible
* Commissioning Manager
* Quality Assurance and Reviewing Manager
* Business Support Officer
* Therapeutic Parenting Programme Rep

Consideration of further membership as the panel develops, including multi-agency representatives to fulfil the functions of the complex needs panel.

**Attendees to Panel**

Team Managers will present the case to Panel (Team Managers may want SWs to attend with them.

**Process**

Fortnightly meetings on a Tuesday afternoon at 12.30 p.m. prior to MARP starting at 2.00 pm

* Chair – HoS
* Deputy Chair - SMs Children’s Improvement/0 - 25
* All paperwork to be with designated business support by the previous Friday at 1.00 pm before the panel meeting.
* Panel members will receive panel papers Monday afternoon.
* The business support will send out times for attendance at panel.
* The panel minutes will be taken by business support.
* Actions and Summary of the discussions will be circulated within twenty four hours of the panel to the Team Manager.
* On receipt of the actions and summary the TM will be responsible to ensure this is entered onto the electronic social care records.

**Expectations**

* All proposed plans for children and young people to have been discussed with the TM/SM and approved by the SM to be presented to the panel.
* All relevant documents are up to date and evidence why the needs of the child and family require the intervention requested.
* There is evidence of family solutions having been exhausted.
* Evidence multi-agency team around the family approach has been undertaken.
* For children and young people where there is a combination of health, medical, education and social care needs, the virtual placement consultation process should have been undertaken before presentation at panel.
* In situations where multi agency funding requests and decisions in relation to high cost placements for children and young people aged from 0-25, are required, presentation at the Multi-Agency Resources and Placements panel (MARP) will be recommended
* The panel is a decision making forum.

Please note this is an internal process to achieve good outcomes for individual children, young people and families and to ensure social work practice is in line with the scheme of delegation of decision making within the approved South Gloucestershire resources and budget.

Bev Mann/Sarah Ball – 9th August 2021 and up-dated October, 2021