**Interim Position re use of Chronologies: when to start a chronology, what template to use and useful links to Tri-X to assist**

A chronology is a tool to help structure information and provide a factual overview of history and sequential significant life events in a family’s life.

When updated regularly and used well, chronologies should enable any practitioner working with the family to understand key events that have happened in the life of a family and the impact this has had upon the child and/or parenting capacity.

Practitioners will use chronologies to analyse family history, and build their understanding of the child’s lived experience and family patterns of care, as well as a tool to analyse risk and analyse impact of past harm on future care.  *The background, culture and diversity of the family and the holistic needs of the child need to be taken into account.*

Good practice will see practitioners bringing chronologies & genograms to supervision .This will support reflective thinking, analysis of family history and relationship patterns and inform management decision making in overseeing children’s plans and reviews.

Every child should have a chronology based on factual information which is compiled at the start of their assessment enabling an analysis of strengths and worries to inform the current work plan.   In the Access team, “Background history of events” are already started on a Contact and should be recorded in the chronologies document to make them visible to inform decision making.

**When** **is a Chronology required?**

Chronologies must be available on all files held on children and their families within statutory children’s services in South Gloucestershire.

For children that are previously unknown to services and for those who require immediate accommodation, a summary chronology should be produced alongside the request for a placement, this will be used to inform the decision making and any matching process.

Team Managers should regularly review the chronology to ensure it is up to date and reflects the current plan of support and prevents delay in the management of worries and concerns

**Which Template to use:-**

**The Chronology template in Tri –x should be used:-link below.** The Practice Guidance in Tri x gives really helpful information to help guide you through devising a chronology –all links below

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| Chronologies & Genograms |
| Interim [Practitioners Guidance on Chronologies](http://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/Guidance%20on%20chronologies%20v5.docx) | January 2021 |
| Interim Chronology Template – January, 2021 | Dec 2021 |
| [Article - Why a Chronology is the First Thing You Should Do in an Assessment - Community Care August 2018](https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2018/08/15/chronology-first-thing-assessment/) | October 2018 |

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