PRACTICE TIPS - CHILD IN NEED PLANNING – SIGNS OF WELLBEING April 2019

WHAT IS A CHILD IN NEED PLAN ?

A CIN plan is a statutory requirement for a child or YP that has been assessed as requiring services in order that they are safe, healthy and their welfare is prioritised.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 states *- A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled.*

In South Gloucestershire, where Signs of Safety is the adopted model of practice, **Signs of Wellbeing** is used in cases where children are defined as Children in Need.

PURPOSE OF CHILD IN NEED PLANS

A plan outlines the direction of travel that is needed in order for a child to develop, be safe, happy and healthy. They demonstrate accountability and provide a rationale for intervention

Decisions about children’s lives need to be informed by evidence through the assessment and planning process – Plans provide structure to ensure intervention is purposeful and addresses the identified areas of need.

Families should be clear about what needs to change and in what timescale in order for a case to be closed – A good Plan will set this out. In Signs of Safety this is referred to as the Trajectory plan.

The aim of a Child in Need Plan is to reduce the risk of escalation of need, and to support the family in developing resilience, knowledge and skills to meet the child’s needs without ongoing statutory intervention.

Expectations and Guidance for Child In Need Planning

Every Child In Need case must have an up to date CIN / S OF S wellbeing plan which has been informed through an assessment and chronology.

Plans need to be made within **10 days** of the assessment

Every plan must have a CIN review – this avoids drift and delay in terms of decision making and safeguarding should it be required

Reviews must take place every **8** weeks unless management agreement has been sought and documented. Reviews need to be well chaired and structured in order to avoid drift, deflection and delay.

Plans must have a clear end point with a contingency plan identified should the desired outcomes NOT be met.

Families must be involved in the formation of the CIN plan and review process. They must be informed of expectations for timescales and outcomes, and provided with clarity around the purpose of intervention and the agreed Goals to be achieved.

Children and Young People should be involved in Planning given their age, ability and understanding.

CIN plans must set out clear responsibilities including the frequency of SW visits to the child, Clarify the roles and responsibilities in the plan of other professionals and agencies.

The Family and involved agencies must all be provided with a copy of the plan.

TOP TIPS

Plans need to be Smart – Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely – this ensures there is clear focus and direction for the child and their family.

Plans should be made following mapping using the Signs of Safety Assessment and Planning tool. The plan will need to detail who will do what in everyday home life which ensures the focus is kept on the direct care the child receives.

The steps within the Plan set out the trajectory in terms of what, when, who, and how. This should work back from point of case closure and the necessary steps required to achieve this.

Scaling ensures there is movement towards the goal and provides a visual reinforcement for the family. This helps to maintain enthusiasm and motivation.

 Wellbeing Goals should be set which clearly describe what the agency needs to see to know the critical health and wellbeing worries will be sufficiently addressed in order to close the case.

Transparency is essential at all stages of planning.

The plan is created ***with*** the family for the family

A words and pictures plan can be made for the child

Refer to the Assessment Triangle as it can highlight areas of unmet need for a child which may have previously not been known.

All members of the plan should be given a copy and invited to a review. Reviews are central to good planning as they ensure the SMART principles are kept on track. Reviews remind everyone that this is a joint process with shared responsibilities and shared goals for and with the family.

Plans set out the road map for the child’s future and therefore need to be invested in by all agencies, family and child.

 

Refer to - SMART planning, Lets Talk About Plans, Childs Voice