**Proposal for ending Child Protection Plans when Children become subject to court orders or looked after**

The purpose of this document is to clarify practice when children who are subject to child protection plans become subject to legal Orders, become a child in care, or are removed from the family home. To ensure there is consistency and clarity across the service around planning for children; it reduces duplication of work by social work teams and it also avoids families and children being subject to two different statutory processes.

**Interim Care Order**

1. When an Interim Care Order (ICO) is granted, and the child is not living at home, the threshold for significant harm has been met and agreed in Court. The social work Team will notify the Quality Assurance Reviewing Unit (QARU) Business Support and the Child Protection Chair by email within 24 hours of the Order being made and QARU Business Support will administratively end the Child Protection Plan and write to all parties involved to inform them of the decision.
2. The Social Work Team will complete the CLA notification record on Mosaic informing health, education and QARU of the child’s looked after status. An IRO will be allocated, in most cases this will the same worker who chaired the conferences, this will commence the Child Looked After (CLA) review process. An initial review must be held within 20 days of a child becoming looked after.
3. If an ICO is granted and the child remains living in the family home, the child will be a child looked after and subject to placement with parents’ regulations following the relevant social work assessment. The above process should be followed.

**Interim Supervision Order**

1. When an Interim Supervision Order is granted, the Child Protection Plan will not end administratively and the child will continue to have a Child Protection Plan. At the following Review Conference the child’s safety and needs will be fully considered. A Child Protection Plan will only be ceased if it is agreed at the Review Conference.

**Supervision Orders**

1. When A Supervision Order was granted as per the Local Authority’s Proposed Plan and where prior agreement of the Core Group and Child Protection Chair was sought, the Child’s Child Protection Plan will end. The Social Work Team Manager will complete a Manager’s Case Note on the child’s file providing the rationale for this decision and the reason the child will no longer require a Child Protection Plan.
2. Within 24 hours of the Supervision Order being made, the Social Work Team will notify by email the QARU Business Support and Child Protection Chair. Quality Assurance Reviewing and Unit (QARU) Business Support will administratively end the Child Protection Plan and write to all parties involved to inform them of the decision.
3. In exceptional circumstances where the SW Team/ Service Manager and the Child Protection Chair agree for the Child Protection Plan to continue, for example the Supervision Order was not the preferred Local Authority Plan and safeguarding concerns still remain and are significant, the Child Protection Plan will continue to be subject to Review Conferences until the risk has reduced.

**Section 20 Children Act 1989 Child in Care**

1. When a child is accommodated into careunder S20 Children Act 1989, the Social Work Team will notify the QARU Business Support and the Child Protection Chair, within 24 hours and complete the CLA notification on Mosaic. When a child is accommodated into care under S20 Children Act 1989, there always needs to be consideration as to the Child Protection Chair, taking on the role of IRO for the child and this would be the preferred option.
2. Before the CLA Review there needs to be a discussion with the SW Team, the IRO/CP chair as to whether the Care Plan will or will not provide adequate security for the child and sufficiently reduces or eliminates the risk of significant harm identified in the Child Protection Plan. The outcome of this discussion must be recorded in a manager’s case note on Mosaic by the Child protection Chair.
3. The CLA review, will consider if the Care plan is providing adequate security for the child and sufficiently reduces or eliminates the risk of significant harm identified in the Child Protection Plan.

If the outcome of the CLA Plan is that a Child Protection Plan is required or is no longer required, this needs to be recorded in the CLA Record of Meeting.

If the recommendation of the CLA Review is that the Child Protection Plan can end as the Care Plan provides adequate security for the child and sufficiently reduces or eliminates the risk of significant harm, the IRO must advise QARU Business Support by email of the decision within 24 hours. QARU Business Support will end the child protection episode on Mosaic and send a letter within 2 working days to all parties involved in the Child Protection Plan advising them of this decision.

11 *In exceptional circumstances, such as short breaks or if there is concern that the child in care plan does not provide adequate security for the child and does not sufficiently reduce or eliminate the risk of significant harm identified in the Child Protection Plan there must be a single plan and a single planning and reviewing process, led by the Independent Reviewing Officer or the Child Protection chair. This will ensure up to date information in relation to the child's welfare and safety is considered within the Child in Care Review meeting and informs the overall care planning process and permanence decision making*.

1. If **consent for s20 is withdrawn** by those with parental responsibility in an unplanned way, the Social Work Team Manager must be satisfied
2. The child’s wishes and feelings have been sought and given due consideration
3. The decision to cease the child being in care will safeguard and promote their welfare

The Social Work Team Manager should consult with the Independent Reviewing Officer for their views and then must alert the Service Manager of the child’s information and plan for the discharge to be approved within 24 hours if it is safe for the child to go home. The Service Manager should complete a Manager’s Case Note on the child’s file providing the rationale for this decision.

If there is concern the child will be placed at significant risk of harm, consideration should be made for a Strategy Discussion to take place.

At point of discharge, depending on the child’s needs and safety, the child’s plan will change to either a Child in Need, Child Protection, Step Down to Early Help, or closed. The plan is to be developed no later than 5 days of the child returning home.

For all children who have a change to their plan, any outstanding actions and outcomes which have not been achieved but are still required, will be transferred to the new plan type.

**Emergency Protection Order**

13. When an Emergency Protection Orderis granted, the threshold for significant harm is met has been agreed by the Court. The Social Work Team will notify QARU Business Support within 24 hours. The child will not be removed from a Child Protection Plan for the duration of the Emergency Protection Order as it is only valid for eight days. It would be anticipated the Local Authority would return to Court within that duration and dependent upon the child’s Permanence option and order made in Court the relevant process outlined above will be duly followed. Where the Emergency Protection Order is discharged and no further order is made, the Child Protection/ Safer Me Plus plan will continue as before. Where this occurs, the Child Protection Chair should consider bringing the Conference Review forward giving the escalation of concern.

**Police Protection**

14 When Police Protection is implemented, the threshold for immediate significant harm is considered met by the Police, but not the Court or multi agency partners. If a child already has a Child Protection Plan, the Social Work Team will notify QARSS by email of the Police Protection within 24 hours. The Child Protection Plan will not cease as the Police Protection expires after 72 hours. Dependent upon follow up actions that are taken by the Local Authority, this will inform which process is then followed as outlined above.

**Child Arrangement Orders**

**15)** When a Child Arrangement Order is granted by the Court, the child will continue to have a Child Protection Plan in place. The Child Protection Plan will continue to be subject to Review Conference where the child’s safety and needs will be fully considered. A Child Protection Plan will only be ceased if it is agreed at the Review Conference.

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