

**REQUEST FOR LEGALTHRESHOLD MEETING**

The information below is to ensure detailed information is provided to the Legal threshold Panel to ensure effective decision making and to ensure the LA meets the requirements of the new pre-proceedings protocol started on 1st July 2013. **This form will only be completed following a preliminary discussion between the Social worker, Team Manager and a solicitor.**

**This form has been amended to reflect key parts of the new Social Work Evidence Template so that elements of this form can be easily transferred to the SWET if proceedings need to be issued. It is designed to promote analysis of the key issues and patterns of harm within the family and to apply these to the impact on the child/ren to assist in establishing whether significant harm has / is being suffered.**

Only use this form if following your analysis of harm to any child/en you have concluded that no alternative to pre proceedings or care proceedings will keep the child/ren safe.

**The following documentation must be submitted with this form:**

1. Up to date Chronology
2. Information about previous court proceedings on this child, a related child or one of the parents
3. Relevant documents with sufficient analysis of the child’s circumstances including: a current social work assessment and Child Protection Minutes & Plans for last 6 months (longer if necessary)
4. Genogram
5. Written Agreements
6. Significant other documents e.g. probation risk assessments / PNC / School attendance

**Social worker completing the form:**

**Team manager completing the form:**

**Date:**

1. **The child(ren)**

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| **Names**  | **Gender** | **Date of Birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current legal status** |
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| 1. **Family composition**
* This section should include family members and relationships, and should specify the relationship in respect of each child subject to the application. Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth, their nationality, ethnicity and their current addresses.
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| **Name** | **Relationship** | **Parental Responsibility** | **DOB** | **Nationality** | **Ethnicity** | **Address** |
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1. **Role of extended family member(s) where relevant**
2. **Identified patterns of harm**

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| * List patterns within the family that you have identified as significant.
* Focus on the last two years unless prior events are significant.
* Unusual or exceptional events should be identified regardless of whether they form a pattern of behaviour as they may indicate a severe need.
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| **Pattern of Harm** | **Significance / Impact** | **Relevant chronology entries** |
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| 1. **The social work analysis of the significant harm the child (or each child) has suffered and/or is at risk of suffering.**

Explain which events / incidents / injuries / patterns you have identified as being the cause of the significant harm including the analysis of the event/s that led to you bringing the case to legal panel - why are you requesting a legal panel now? Protective factors should also be identified.**Definition of Harm:**“Harm” means ill-treament or the impairment of health or development [including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treament of another];“Development” means physical, intellectual, emotional, social, or behvaioural development; “Health” means physical or mental health; and“ill-treatment” includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treament which are not physical**Significant:**Where the question of whether harm suffered by a child is sigificant turns on the child’s health or development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a simliar child**.** Evidence can be primary (yours), or secondary (where you analyse what others say and think) |
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| 1. **Analysis of each parent’s capability to meet each child’s needs, including analysis of the evidence of any capability gap and whether/how this can be bridged in the child’s timescale. Include unrelated members of the household/s where relevant.**
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| Mother |
| Father |
| Other person with parental responsibility |

1. **List of previous assessments and interventions (including any family meetings/FGS’s that have taken place) Include any written agreements, CP Plan, previous pre-proceedings or proceedings, parenting assessment, viability assessments, services offered.**
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| **Organisation** | **Description of assessment/intervention** | **Date** | **Outcome and effectiveness** |
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1. **What changes and outcomes for the child does the LA want/need to achieve via the pre-proceedings and/or care proceedings?**

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1. **Please list here any further assessments that you believe are required within pre-proceedings (this includes any further SW assessment as well as viability/full fostering assessments). Please note that the use of experts needs to be limited to those that are ‘necessary’. Include anticipated timescales for completion of all assessments deemed necessary where this is possible.**

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1. **Please set out your plans for the child/ren and the family. What is your permanency plan for the child/ren (include here your views regarding sibling placement options).**

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1. **Team Managers Recommendation for Legal Protocol Panel, including recommendation and rational for decision – please make a recommendation re: Pre proceedings or Court Proceedings and if pre-proceedings not appropriate, what are the risks / reasons that require court proceedings to be issued?**

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