

# Children's Services

## Locality Line of Sight Meetings

### Leadership Oversight Meeting

#### **Introduction**

The accommodation of a child or young person by the local authority is a very serious decision and should not be taken without due process. Children's Services supports the view that children's needs are best met within their own families or with extended family members or friends who might be prepared to care for the child without the need for the child to come into care, unless there is evidence that this would be detrimental to their welfare or protection.

The Locality Line of Sight meetings and the Leadership Oversight Meeting aims to ensure that the best outcomes are secured for the child/young person.

In addition, the Leadership meeting will have oversight of the most vulnerable young people in the categories listed below:

#### **When to use the meetings:**

- A decision to accommodate a child under Section 20 of the Children Act
- A decision to apply for a secure accommodation order
- When it appears necessary to apply to Court for an Emergency Protection Order (this is usually done retrospectively), a supervision order or care order
- All requests to make an application to a Court for a Care Order/Supervision Order
- When it appears necessary to remove a child from a placement with parental regulation
- Cases that have been in pre-proceedings for 12 weeks following the decision to enter into pre-proceedings meeting made at the Locality Line of Sight meeting.
- All new request for an application for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and before any application to renew a DoLS. Final agreement lies with the Corporate Director/Executive Director.
- All children who have been assessed as being at high risk of CE for 12 weeks
- Children/Young People who are on the edge of care

#### **Role of the Locality Line of Sight meeting**

It is the responsibility of the meeting to:

- Consider plans for children where PLO or care proceedings are being requested and if the case needs to be referred to Leadership Meeting
- Consider plans for children where a request for care under section 20 is being requested and if the case needs to be referred to Leadership Meeting
- Consider plans for children where intensive support within their family homes could significantly improve their lived experience and avoid any request for care.

- Oversee children with current care proceedings and highlight in delays to leadership oversight meeting
- Oversee children in care with a section 20 plan and ensure reunification plans are exhausted before any longer-term request for care
- Oversee PLO plans for children to ensure progression
- To ensure all possible assessments to support the child and their family have been considered
- For any new children in care within the locality, ensure IHA and SDQ's progressed
- Review PLO, legal tracker, and permanence information to support the above
- Consider all possible application for a new DoLS or renewals of DoLS in time for case to progress for discussion at Leadership Meeting and for Director approval.
- Review all young people assessed as high risk of CE by 10 weeks in order for the case to be presented to Leadership at 12 weeks

### **Role of the Leadership meeting**

It is the responsibility of the meeting to:

- Authorise plans to accommodate any child or young person under Section 20 Children Act and consider the care plan
- Authorise **ALL** plans to apply for an order under Section 31 of the 1989 Children Act (Care Orders & Supervision Orders) and consider the care plan
- Authorise plans (retrospectively) for any emergency decision to accommodate a child and consider the care plan
- To make recommendations regarding any further support or alternative options to prevent a child coming into care or to help the child/young person return to their family/wider family as soon as possible.
- To consider all new applications for DoLS and request for renewals and make a recommendation to the Director
- Oversee all children at high risk of CE for 12 weeks
- Review all cases in pre-proceedings for 12 weeks to ensure that there is no drift and plans are progressing

### **What needs to happen prior to seeking a decision from the Leadership Oversight meeting**

1. Social worker to explore every opportunity and have a reflective conversation with team manager and locality colleagues to prevent the child/young people coming into care.
2. Social worker should discuss the request first and obtain the approval of the team manager to take to Locality Line of Sight Meeting.
3. Service Manager should consider at the line of sight meeting the appropriateness of taking the request to leadership oversight meeting including reviewing the documents and any supporting evidence to be sent to leadership oversight meeting for consideration.
4. The Line of Sight/Leadership workflow should be used on Mosaic
5. Legal advice from the local authority solicitor must be sought prior to the case coming to the leadership oversight meeting.

Except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. unaccompanied child seeking asylum) any referral to the leadership oversight meeting should also evidence multi-agency involvement in decision making:

- A Family Group Conference has taken place or is pending (where appropriate);
- A Core Group Meeting/Child Protection Conference has taken place;

In case of retrospective approval in emergency admission, there should be evidence of health and police involvement in Strategy Discussion/Investigation  
The meeting will examine what has been tried so far to help keep a child at home and consider what additional resources might be available to prevent children and young people coming into care or to allow a safe return home.

### **Submitting a request to the locality line of sight meeting**

The Mosaic workflow should be completed 10 am on Monday morning

Before the meeting the chair will be needed to look at the following on Mosaic and it is important this is up to date

- Up to date evidence informed Social Work Assessment - if Social Work Assessment has not been undertaken in the past 3 months then it must be updated.
- Chronology
- Genogram

The Administrator will circulate copies of the documents to meeting members in advance of the meeting.

The Administrator will email an agenda by 9.00 on the day of the locality line of sight meeting providing the social worker and their team manager a slot for discussion at the meeting.

### **Submitting a Request to Leadership Oversight Meeting**

The Mosaic workflow should be completed by 10 am on Thursday morning (**for Emergency requests this will be extended to 10am on the day of the meeting**):

Members of the Leadership Meeting will be checking the following documents on Mosaic, so it is important that they are up to date:

- Up to date evidence informed Social Work Assessment - if Social Work Assessment has not been undertaken in the past 3 months then it must be updated.
- Chronology
- Genogram
- Legal Advice when appropriate

The Administrator will circulate copies of the documents to meeting members in advance of the meeting.

The Administrator will email an agenda by 4.00 on the day before the leadership oversight meeting provisioning the social worker and their team manager a slot for discussion at the meeting.

### **Emergency Decision for a Child/Young Person to come into Care Outside of the Leadership Oversight Meeting**

Where emergency decisions are made outside of the meeting (by the Chair of the Leadership Meeting during day time or On Call Manager out of hours manager) for a child to come into care, then the child's plan must be presented at the next meeting. The request will then be presented by the social worker (and their team manager if they require support) either in person or via teams.

### **Outcomes of Leadership Oversight Meeting**

The outcome of the meeting may be:

- Agreement to a child or young person to come into care with advice on the most appropriate route.
- Agreement for an application for DoLS (in consultation with Corporate Director & Executive Director, agreement to be given by the latter as per the scheme of nomination).
- Agreement to a child or young person remaining at home or being returned home with advice given as to support and contingencies.
- Discharge a Care Order.
- Request a review of the request at next Leadership Oversight meeting
- The meeting may also direct further assessments etc. as required.

**Recording Decisions Confidential – The legal advice section of the discussion will be redacted from the substantive minutes. The minutes relating to the legal advice given at the meeting is subject to legal professional privilege and shall not be disclosed to any person or third party involved in the case.**

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