



# Child in Need Planning Meetings

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# Session Overview

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Understand the statutory requirements

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Good practice

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Timescales and requirements

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What does good look like and why is planning changing

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How to produce SMART plans that are outcome based

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Reviews

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Children's Engagement

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Step up – Step down and close

## Understanding the statutory requirements

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CIN planning is identified following an assessment of the child and families' needs. If the child has areas of unmet need and or meets the criteria under S17 CA 1989 for Support a CIN plan will be required.

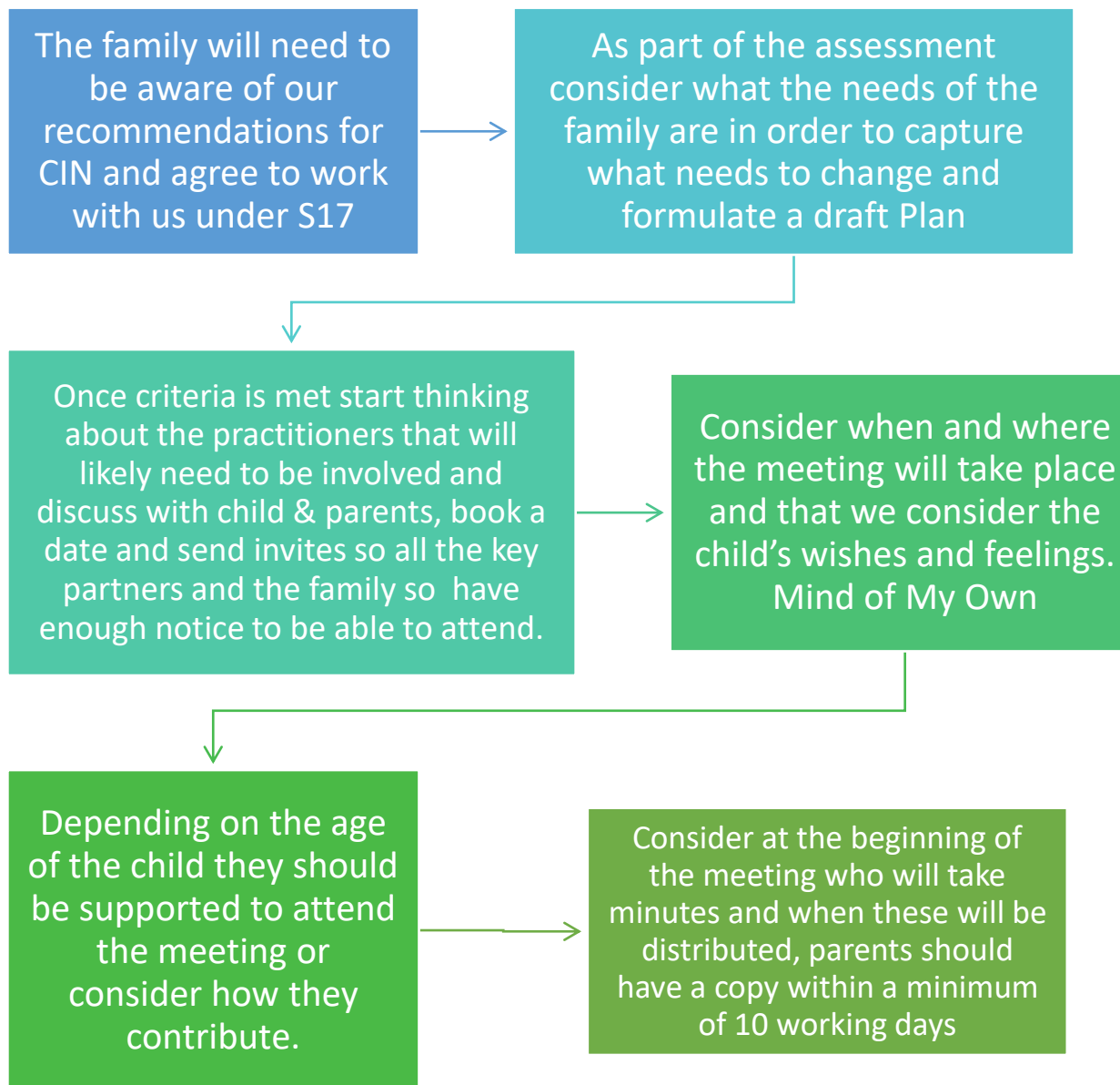
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Planning usually commences on completion of the assessment and, should be opened on the file no later than the assessment authorisation date - It is worth noting that interventions don't have to wait till the meeting has taken place

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The first meeting should be held within a maximum of 10 working days of the assessment completion date. Reviews will then be required every 3 months as a minimum – you can bring these forward if you are concerned progress isn't being achieved or you want to facilitate step-down once key actions completed

# What is good practice in CIN planning



# Outcome focused SMART plans

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## Why we are changing to make our plans more outcome focussed?

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- We need to work in partnership with children and families in line with our practice framework
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- To help us focus on children rather than adults – sometimes tasks are completed but the children are not yet safe or need remains unmet
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- To be clear for the child and everyone what 'good enough' will look and feel like for the child

# How we use outcome focused plans to improve the lives of children

- We start from what good enough looks like for the child.
- We use positive and clear non jargonistic language that everyone understands
- We work collaboratively with parents and child, and agencies.
- Outcome focused plans are those that aim to achieve the priorities that children and their families identify as important
- We recognise difference and value diversity
- We have just one plan for the child – agreed by the family and agencies

Outcome  
focused  
plans to  
improve the  
lives of  
children  
continued ...

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We are able to measure progress and consider alternatives in a timely manner for the child if there is lack of progress

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- We are strengths based. We recognise and acknowledge success

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- To highlight to the family what will happen if the plan is not successful in achieving the aim (ask the family to think about Contingency plans, not everything will go to plan!)

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- Families are able to see clearly what else they need to do to reach the desired outcome and maintain this

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- We ask ourselves the 'what benefit' question - so that everything we do adds value to children and families and if it doesn't, we don't do it

Act as a facilitator, enable the family to identify solutions and respectfully challenge areas of risk or need that the family may not have considered, and in a strengths-based approach as suggested above. Contribute to SMART planning that is outcome focused for the child, ensuring actions have purpose and impact that will reduce the risk and concerns identified. Be clear about what you can offer to the family in your role.

**Instead of saying**

I am really concerned you haven't been taking Rosie to school every day and this is having a huge impact on her education.

**Consider**

What makes it difficult for you to bring Rosie to School on a regular basis ?  
  
What help do you need to ensure Rosie attends every day?

**What impact does this have**

By removing the blame and providing the family an opportunity to explain the challenges it enables them to tell professionals what needs to change and how they can do this or what support they need.

I am worried your lack of engagement means the children will continue to be at risk

How can you show Rosie, her teachers and us that you want things to be better?

Ensuring responsibility without criticising the family and avoiding antagonistic debate



# Child in Need plan in Mosaic

<b>What do we want to achieve – what will look different</b>	<b>What needs to happen and what would help</b>	<b>Who will take action and by when</b>

# Children's Engagement

What are your experiences of involving children in their reviews?

What preparation and consultation do we provide?

Use of Mind of My Own?

# Review process

- Plans need to be reviewed within a maximum of 3 months
- Ensure minutes and updated plan is provided to the child/family/practitioners within 10 working days
- Consider how progress will be monitored in-between meetings to ensure progress
- Step up and step down – Consider when is “good enough” met
- Line of sight to agree and include Early Help in the meeting ready to step down



## Final Comments and reflections

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- Thank you for your contributions today
- Note - Practice Examples on the Children's HUB