

## **Children's Services**

### **Ending a Child Protection Plan following a court order or statutory event**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to clarify practice when children who are subject to child protection plans become subject to legal Orders, Looked After, or are removed from the family home. This procedure change is to ensure there is consistency across the service to avoid any risk of confusion 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.
- 1.2 The procedure sets out the steps to be taken according to which type of care arrangement is made.

#### **2. Interim Care Order**

- 2.1 When an Interim Care Order (ICO) is granted, the threshold for significant harm being met has been agreed by the Courts. The social work (SW) Team will notify the Quality Assurance and Reviewing Officer (QARO) within 24 hours of the order being made.
- 2.2 The care episode will be properly recorded in Mosaic, and the care review process will commence. If the child is no longer residing within the family home, the child will cease to be subject to a Child Protection Plan and all parties will be notified of the change. If the child remains living in the Family home under an ICO the CP planning will end at the first CIC review and the CP QARO will be invited to attend a hand over and ensure safety planning is incorporated into the care planning.

#### **3. Interim Supervision Order**

- 3.1 When an Interim Supervision Order (ISO) is granted, the threshold for significant harm has been met and the court will continue to oversee planning for the child from this point. The CP plan can therefore be ended; however, a review conference should take place to ensure that partners are clear about the Interim Supervision Plan and their role in this. The child's Social Worker will start a Child in Need plan on MOSAIC that includes the Interim Supervision Order plan.

#### **4. Supervision Order**

- 4.1 When a Supervision Order (SO) is made significant harm has been met. The child's Social Worker will notify the QARO of the order within 24 hours and the CP plan can therefore be ended; however, a review conference should take place to ensure that partners are clear about the Supervision Plan and their role in this. The child's Social Worker will start a Child in Need plan on MOSAIC that includes the Supervision Order plan.

#### **5. Child Looked After under Section 20**

- 5.1 When a child becomes Looked After, under s20 of The Children Act 1989, the child's Social Worker will notify the QARO within 24 hours. The Social Worker will apply the CLA flag to MOSAIC and the CLA review process will commence. The care plan will become the primary plan for both care and safety planning. The QARO will end the CP plan to ensure that the child does not have two plans running alongside one another.
- 5.2 The child's Social Worker will write to all parties notifying them that the CP plan will end, giving parties 10 working days to make any representations as to why the CP Plan should not cease. The CLA review will occur within 20 working days. There may be exceptional circumstances where a CP plan is not ended following agreement of S20, for example when a child is in care for a short period of time for a specific reason. For guidance on this, see para. 9 Exceptions below.

#### **6. Where S20 consent is withdrawn**

- 6.1 If consent for s20 is withdrawn by those with parental responsibility in an unplanned way the team manager (the nominated officer) or Director of Children's Services (if the young person is aged 16 or 17) must satisfy themselves of the following:

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- a) the child's wishes and feelings have been sought and given consideration
  - b) the decision to cease the child being looked after will safeguard and promote their welfare (this should include whether a strategy discussion should take place if the child is at immediate risk to plan the immediate action.)
  - c) the QARO has been notified
  - d) where the child is an Eligible Care Leaver the appropriate requirements in respect of Pathway planning have been met
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- 6.2 If the team manager or Executive Director are not satisfied that these conditions are met, they will seek legal advice.

6.3 If they are satisfied that the conditions are met but the risk to the child remains, the Team Manager will trigger either an ICPC or a CIN process, as appropriate. Either way a multi-agency plan will be developed and progressed until the harm is assessed and any risk reduced.

## **7. Pre-Proceedings**

7.1 Where the child has been subject to Pre-Proceedings it is expected that the Child Protection Plan and Pre-Proceedings Plan will be aligned.

## **8. Emergency Protection Order**

8.1 When an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is granted, the threshold for significant harm being met has been agreed by the Courts. The SW Team will notify the QARO within 24 hours. However, the child will not be removed from a CP plan at this point, as the EPO is only valid for eight days. The Local Authority should return to Court within that duration and follow the further direction of the court.

## **9. Powers of Police Protection**

9.1 When a Powers of Police Protection (PP) are implemented, the threshold for immediate significant harm has been met by the police, but not the Courts or multi-agency partners. If a child is already on a CP Plan, the SW Team will notify the QARO of this development within 24 hours, but the child will not be removed from a CP Plan at that point as the PP expires after 72 hours. Dependent upon follow-up actions that are taken by the Local Authority, this will inform which process is then duly followed.

## **9. Exceptions**

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In very exceptional circumstances the child may need to remain dual planned. Examples would be for a Section 20 agreement lasting only a couple of weeks or a time-limited court order. These will be discussed and agreed by the QARO and the relevant Service Manager.

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