

Child Protection Plans

A Child Protection Plan is a working tool that should enable the family and professionals to understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others. The aims of the plan are:-

- To keep the child safe & prevent further harm
- To promote their welfare
- If it is in the child's best interests and can be done safely, to support their family (and wider family) to care for them

It is the responsibility of the core group (including family members) to draw up the detailed plan.

It is the role of the key worker to co-ordinate the plan, including finding out what the child's views are and agreeing the plan with the child and parents.

A Glossary of Terms

Old: Child's name is on the Child Protection Register

New: The child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan

Old: Enquiry to the custodian of the Register

New: Protection Plan Enquiry

Old: Category of registration

New: Category of abuse or neglect

Old: Deregistration

New: Discontinuation of a Child Protection Plan

Old: Length of time on the Register

New: Duration of the Child Protection plan

Effective plans should: -

- Describe the identified developmental needs of the child, and what therapeutic services are required
- Include specific, achievable, child-focused outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child
- Include realistic strategies and specific actions to achieve the planned outcomes
- Include a contingency plan to be followed if circumstances change significantly and require prompt action
- Clearly identify roles and responsibilities of professionals and family members, including the nature and frequency of contact by professionals with children and family members
- Lay down points at which progress will be reviewed, and the means by which progress will be judged; and
- Set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of those professionals with routine contact with the child – e.g. Health Visitors, GPs etc – as well as those professionals providing specialist or targeted support to the child and family.

For more information access:

www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb



Child Protection Plans: Important information for Professionals



This leaflet outlines important Changes to Newcastle's Child Protection Register - from 1st April 2008 Newcastle will no longer use the term 'Child Protection Register'. Where a child protection conference decides a child is at risk of significant harm the child will be the 'Subject of a Child Protection Plan'

What will change?

From 1st April 2008 Newcastle Children's Services will no longer keep a 'Child Protection Register'. If a child protection case conference decides a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm they will agree a *Child Protection Plan* for that child.

When it is necessary to tell anyone of this we will say that the child is the **'subject of a Child Protection Plan'**.



Appropriate workers will still be able to check if a child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

This change is in line with the Government guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2006).

It is being made to focus workers and families on the Child Protection Plan and the day-to-day actions everyone needs to take to safeguard the child. This is what keeps children safe and makes a difference to their lives.

If you are working with a child who has a Child Protection Plan

- Know what the child protection plan says and what actions you have agreed to
- Attend core groups and contribute towards the development and implementation of the Child Protection Plan
- Know who the key worker is and how to contact them
- Implement any policies and procedures that you would have used for children previously described as being 'on the child protection register'
- See the child at agreed intervals
- Report any concerns you have about the child, or your ability to progress the Child Protection Plan, to the key worker immediately
- Attend all child protection conferences with a written report that you have discussed with the family before the meeting
- Seek supervision

What will stay the same?

All the duties described in guidance and legislation remain, including:

For all workers and volunteers

- Being able to recognise and report a child who may be suffering harm through abuse or neglect
- Listening to children and their parents
- Assisting Children's Services in any enquiries about a child who may be suffering harm
- Knowing when to share information to safeguard any child
- Knowing how to escalate concerns if you think another agency's response is inadequate
- Being open and honest with children and their families and listening to their views, including considering any cultural differences
- Arranging for interpretation, translation and other services to enable everyone to participate in the safeguarding process
- Contributing to core assessments on any child who may be suffering harm in line with the *Framework for Assessment*, (2000)



With thanks to Sunderland PCT