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Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board

Supporting Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan: Ensuring progress

Section C11

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C11 Supporting Children Subject to a CP plan: Ensuring progress



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01 Introduction

“The negative impact of abuse and neglect on children’s developmental trajectories and outcomes has been described in a wide range of literature. Brown and Ward’s overview of research on the impact of abuse and neglect on children’s long-term development concluded that service responses are often out of kilter with children’s timescales and it is of the utmost importance that children are assessed and decisions made in a manner that responds more closely to their needs. Similarly Professor Eileen Munro’s independent review concluded that child protection had lost its focus on the needs and experience of the individual child and had become too focused on compliance and procedures”

Page 6 **Child protection, social work reform and intervention: Research priorities and questions March 2014, DFE**

The majority of children subject to child protection plans remain on plan for less than 12 months; 82% (February 2017). The majority of the remaining children cease their plan before two years with a small minority subject to a CP plan for more than 24 months.

Clearly the priority of the Local Safeguarding Children Board partners is that plans progress, either with risks reducing and children remaining safely within their families, or action is taken to safeguard the children outside of their family.

02 Aim

The aim of this procedure is to ensure that where plans are not progressing, sufficient management oversight is in place to move plans forward, overcome obstacles and barriers and to avoid drift.

In order to achieve this, the following procedure will be followed by all Safeguarding Children Board partners.

03 Line Manager Review

Following a decision being taken that a child or children should be the subject of a child protection plan, the normal child protection conference procedures should be followed.

If at the third review (around 9 months) sufficient progress has not been made to improve the well-being of the children, the Conference and Review Manager will inform the conference attendees that a Line Manager Review must take place within three months. The Line Manager Review is to be attended by the managers of the core group.

The aim of the Line Manager Review is to identify any barriers to the children coming off a plan and to determine areas where progress should be made and confirm that the risk of significant harm still exists.

Copies of the notes of this meeting should be sent to the Conference and Review Manager within two weeks.

04 Senior Manager Review

If at the child's fourth review (15 months) the decision is for the children to remain subject to a plan then the Conference Managers must inform the conference of the need for a Senior Manager Review to take place within three months.

The Senior Manager Review must be attended by senior managers from the organisations represented at conference/core group.

Senior managers should review the progress of the plan so far, review the quality of their agency's involvement and identify any organisational or system barriers that are preventing progress.

A copy of the notes from this meeting should be sent to the Conference and Review Manager within two weeks.

05 Ongoing monitoring

If at the fifth review (around 21 months) the decision is made for the child to remain on a plan, then future meetings should be no more than three months apart and copies of the minutes should be sent to the senior managers from the respective core group members to ensure continued oversight of the plan.