**Pre - Proceedings (PLO) and Child Protection Workflow –** describes the relationship between CP process and PLO.

**Strategy Discussion and Section 47 Enquiries**

These meetings will make a judgement as to whether the child is likely to suffer / or is suffering significant harm.

Practice Lead makes decision whether to follow Child Protection process, Legal Planning Meeting, Child in Need or signposting to other services.

Follow process for going to Court for **Care Proceedings** if this is decided at CARM

**Second Review Child Protection Conference**

Held within 6 months of ICPC

(6 monthly intervals for subsequent reviews)

This second review is approx. 9 months into CPP process.

At this second RCPC, consideration must be given, and a decision made whether to recommend LPM.

If substantiated

Follow Child Protection Process

**Initial Child Protection Conference** (ICPC) is initiated.

**First Core Group**

Within 10 working days of ICPC and 4 weekly thereafter.

**First Review Child Protection Conference**

Within 12 weeks (3 months) of ICPC

**Core Groups**

Every 4 weeks

**Decision if second PLO Review**

A decision must be made by Service Manager for a second PLO Review. This is likely to be in exceptional circumstances.

If insufficient progress within 16 weeks then go to CARM to request resources.

**Pre-Proceedings (PLO) Meeting**

The meeting is held within one week of the Letter Before Proceedings being received by the parents.

Parents are encouraged to bring legal representatives to the meeting. A record of the meeting is produced by the social worker.

**Period of Change**

The Period of Change starts following the Pre-Proceedings Meeting.

This is where progress against actions and expectations should take place.

**Pre-Proceedings (PLO) Review**

The review is held six to eight weeks of the Pre-Proceedings Meeting (or Review if second review meeting)

Outcomes are: Further Pre-Proceedings Review; End PLO; hold review LPM to consider escalation to care proceedings – attendance at CARM to agree resources.

**Core Group members informed of agreed actions, outcome and update of PLO** meetings

**Letter Before Proceedings**

The threshold concerns are agreed with the ICPC Chair. The letter is drafted by the Social Worker, signed off by the Practice Lead and sent to Legal for checking within one week of the LPM decision. The letter confirms the concerns and expectations of parents and local authority. When approved by Legal, Social Worker sends the letter.

**Legal Planning Meeting and Care and Access to Resources Meeting (CARM)**

Follow LPM Terms of Reference to access LPM.

A decision may be made to initiate care proceedings, enter pre-proceedings or continue CP planning. Resources will need to be agreed in CARM. Follow CARM Terms of Reference to access CARM)

**Ending of PLO**

Review the plan for the child at next review CP conference if this is the outcome

**Looked after child**

A child may be looked after under s20 or kinship arrangement.

Any recommendation to go to LPM should be made by the SW and PL and decided by the SM