**Child on a Child Protection Plan who becomes Looked After**

**- Process -**

When a child on a Child Protection Plan becomes a Child Looked After, the following process will be followed:

1. Social Worker updates LCS that child is Looked After, this triggers an alert to CLA admin and IRO Manager.

(A system will soon be in place where the allocated CP Chair will also receive this alert.)

1. IRO Manager will assign the IRO, and the CLA admin send an email to IRO, CP Chair and CP secure mailbox so everyone is clear that the child is subject to combined CP and CLA.
2. IRO and CP Chair will liaise to agree a date where they can both chair a combined Review Child Protection Conference / First Child Looked After Review meeting.
3. The social worker will invite all meeting attendees by telephone call to ensure they have adequate notice. CP admin will also email all professionals who were sent the last conference minutes and will send a letter to parents.
4. Social Worker will complete LCS documents for both processes, currently the C&F Assessment and the CLA Assessment and Progress report.
5. The meeting:

* CP Chair and IRO will have the pre-meet with the family together.
* The meeting will commence as a Review Child Protection Conference, being chaired by the CP Chair and a record of the discussion taken by the Conference Administrator. The IRO will listen to the discussion and ask questions in the conference as needed.
* Information Sharing will take place.
* The conference will discuss the need for an ongoing Child Protection Plan.
* The decision making process for a Child Protection Plan will take place and the IRO will not be asked their view. However, if the IRO disagrees with the decision of the conference the IRO will make this known in the conference. The final decision of the conference remains with the CP Chair, as per Bucks Child Protection Procedures. Scaling will not be completed.
* Foster carers will be given the choice by the CP Chair before the meeting whether they wish to formally give a view on Child Protection Planning.
* If the child is ***no longer the subject of a Child Protection Plan***, the CP Chair and Conference Administrator will leave the room.
* The IRO will take over chairing the meeting as a Child Looked After Review, sharing further information as needed, agreeing care planning and following Child Looked After processes.
* Future meetings will be chaired by the IRO as the Child Protection process has concluded.
* If the child ***remains the subject of a Child Protection Plan***,
* The CP Chair will continue chairing the meeting and work with the conference members to develop the Child Protection Plan.
* The IRO will then take over chairing the meeting as a Child Looked After Review, sharing further information as needed, agreeing care planning that will be built into the Child Protection Plan, which the meeting has already developed, and following Child Looked After processes. The CP Chair will remain in the meeting, contributing as needed. The Conference Administrator will record the whole meeting.
* The IRO may need to meet with the child separately to conclude the CLA Review process.
* All future Review Child Protection Conferences and Child Looked After Reviews will be combined into one meeting. Ideally both elements would be chaired by the IRO, as detailed in Bucks Child Protection Procedures.

1. The CP Chair and Conference Administrator, and the IRO will follow their standard practices after the meeting.

**NB In cases of disagreement, or where CP Chair and IRO cannot find a mutual date, please escalate to the Conference Manager and IRO Manager.**

**Guidance Notes**

It is unusual for a child to remain subject to a Child Protection Plan after becoming Looked After.

However, there are rare occasions when this is appropriate and each case should be considered individually. For example, in situations where a child is accommodated under Section 20 there may continue to be risks. Professionals may be concerned that parental consent is likely to be withdrawn and if this occurred threshold would not be met for immediate police or legal intervention to ensure the child remained within the safety of a placement. The child may be having unsupervised contact with family members or a perpetrator of abuse that places them at risk of harm but cannot be stopped, due to their Section 20 status. In these cases, it would be expected that the social work team would be seeking to consider the child’s safety with the Court but there may be delays in this.

There are further examples and it is expected that the CP Chair and IRO will discuss cases where dual planning may be appropriate in advance of the combined meeting.