**West Sussex – Practice Guidance**

IROs are qualified social workers with at least five years’ experience, and who have acquired the right skills to carry out this role.

**Developing a Supervision Order Plan**

At the finalisation of the proceedings, a ‘Care Plan’ will have been presented to the Court detailing the aspects of the Supervision Order and setting out what support will be provided by the local authority to the child and family. This should form the basis of the CIN plan so that the link between the two is established.

Wherever possible the Care Plan should articulate the specific “next steps” of the

plan to fully establish the safety plan. In addition the frequency of visits to the

child should be explicit along with the review dates for the length of the

Order applied for.

The final Care Plan must be signed off by the Group Manager

Within five days of the Care Proceedings concluding and the Supervision Order

being made, a completed CIN plan should be available to the child’s carers,

parents and involved professionals. The Care Plan presented to Court should

form the basis of the CIN plan. If the child has been looked after throughout the

Proceedings a CLA review should be held to end the period of accommodation

and to develop the CIN plan.

Consideration should be given in the Local Authority’s final Care Plan as to

whether an Initial Child Protection Conference should be held. Within that conference consideration should be given to progressing and securing the plan through a Child Protection Plan.

The criteria for this are the same as for any other child subject to an ICPC, and are based on risk identification and management.

It may also be the case during the lifetime of the Supervision Order that further information of concern becomes available, in those circumstances an Initial Child Protection Conference may be held and where it is judged necessary a Child Protection Plan put in place.

The threshold for an ICPC as opposed to a return to Court should relate to the question of removal. If risk exists so such an extent that the child is no longer considered safe to live at home then a return to Court is indicated. If, however the risk is not at this level but has escalated from CIN hen an ICPC is indicated. It is essential that the Child Protection Plan incorporates and progresses the Care Plan that was presented to the Court.

**Reviewing of a Supervision Order Plan**

The Child Protection process is clear about the timescales for review Child Protection Conferences and core groups which provide an appropriate forum for

the plan to be reviewed.

If there is no Child Protection Plan in place then the child’s situation should be

managed through Child in Need planning, with the plan actively considered

through regular Child in Need meetings.

The Child in Need Plan for a child subject to a Supervision Order should be

reviewed:

* Within one month of the Supervision Order being made
* Within three months of the last review
* Two months prior to the date that the Supervision Order is due to expire
* During every Child in Need meeting or review.

The issue of whether the Supervision Order will need to be extended should be specifically addressed. Specific consideration should be given to the commitments made by the local authority in the final Court Care Plan and any recommendations of the Court and whether these have been met.

There should be a recorded discussion as to whether each explicit goal/action set

out in the final Court Care Plan has been achieved, and if not what aspect of the

safety plan mitigates against this now being required. An explicit

recommendation should be made about whether the Supervision Order is still

required.

**Extending a Supervision Order**

During every Child in Need meeting or review, the issue of whether the

Supervision Order will need to be extended should be specifically addressed. At

the CIN meeting or review, to be held 2 months before the expiry of the

Supervision Order if a decision is taken to make an application to extend the

current Order the review and its recommendation should be discussed in

supervision between the Social Worker and the Practice Manager.

If a decision is made not to seek to extend the Supervision Order the reasons for

this decision must be fully recorded in the review minutes. This should be signed

off by the Practice Manager.

If at the review a recommendation is made that the Supervision Order needs to

be extended, the case should be referred back to the Group Manager and where

agreed, a Legal Planning Meeting convened as soon as possible.

Good practice indicates that:

* This review recommendation should be a minimum of 2 months prior to the end date of a Supervision Order.
* Any application to the court for the extension of a Supervision Order should be made by the local authority at least 4 weeks before the expiry of the order to allow sufficient time for the court to issue the application and list a first hearing.

In this circumstance the information available for attendees of the LPM should include a copy of the final Care Plan, any recommendations of the Court and the notes of the review meetings during the period of the Supervision Order.

**Protecting the Child**

* If at any review it is recommended that the Supervision Order is not providing the level of safeguarding required for the child, consideration may be necessary about whether to make an application to the Court for a Care Order or other order as appropriate. In these circumstances this issue needs to be placed before the Group Manager.
* In an emergency a decision to place the matter before the Court can be taken by any Service Leader.
* An application for a Care Order whilst a Supervision Order is in force will require the local authority to prove the threshold criteria for the making of a Care Order as at the date of the new application.

**Closing of Children’s Social Care Involvement**

If following the expiry of a Supervision Order the decision is made to bring to an end the involvement of Children’s Social Care with the child and family then a comprehensive closure summary should be completed which details the safety plan in place and what, if any, criteria would lead to Children’s Social Care restarting their engagement.

**Reference Points;**

[1.5.2 Care and Supervision Order Proceedings](http://www.proceduresonline.com/westsussex/cs/p_care_supervis_plo.html)