**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.

**The Child and Family Plan**

The Child and Family Plan should clearly identify what we are worried about (danger statements) and what needs to happen so we would no longer be worried and could close the case to Children’s Social Care (safety goals).

The danger statements should outline exactly what we are worried about and the potential impact on the child if the safety goals are not achieved.

The safety goals should be clear and measurable outcomes that are understood by the family and professionals and can be achieved in the agreed timescales.

**What should this include?**

* Details of who is doing what to achieve the safety goals within the agreed timescales. The family, including the children (where age appropriate) should be central to this plan.
* The voice of the child
* The trajectory of work that will take place to achieve the agreed safety goals.
* The bottom line - the ‘non negotiables’ that must or must not happen to keep the child safe.
* A contingency plan to be followed if circumstances change significantly or if the safety goals are not met.
* The frequency of social work visits and the process for review.

**Outcomes:**

**Safety goals met**

Sufficient progress has been made and the child no longer requires Children’s Social Care intervention and it is recommended the case is closed, subject to Practice Manager agreement. This can include a step across to IPEH for further services (The family must consent to IPEH referral).

**Safety goals not met but progress being made.**

The child remains a Child in Need and the same services should continue, any additional services needed should be added to the Plan with clear outcomes and timescales.

**Safety goals not met:**

No engagement or little to no progress made and the child is at risk of significant harm or additional concerns identify the child is at risk of significant harm. Pan Sussex safeguarding procedures to be followed and Strategy Discussion convened or legal advice sought.

**Reference Points;**

