**Wirral**

**Supervision Order Procedure**

**May 2019**

**(Review date: May 2020)**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Supervision Order procedure has been developed to ensure there is robust oversight and decision-making regarding the management of Supervision Orders. It is intended to ensure that there is independent quality assurance of agreed support plans when a Supervision Order is issued. It is also intended to ensure that impact of work is considered at the end of a Supervision Order in order to assess whether the threshold for the Supervision Order continues to be met and it would be purposeful to continue.

1.2 An important element in improving oversight and quality of Supervision Orders is strengthening the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). The IRO will play an important part in reviewing the proposals made by the local authority to consider whether issues can be or have been resolved so that there is sufficient stability to no longer require support. IRO’s will be expected to quality assure plans and the support offered including considering the impact of family life and checking the work and maintenance of the Local Authority commitment to the plan, to ensure they are in accordance with Courts expectations and to highlight any deficits to management, regarding the quality of the intervention.

1.3 Having such a process in place will provide a degree of assurance to the judiciary, as to the robustness of review processes, should a Supervision Order be made. Robustness of planning has been an expressed issue for the court, which has led the Court to consider alternate approaches, such as Care Order with Placement with Parents where the court’s confidence is that a higher level of intervention will be maintained. It is therefore leading to a ‘higher tariff’ alternate option which is also a costlier alternative to Supervision Orders, despite in most circumstances fulfilling the same function.

1.4 It is anticipated, therefore that the procedure will help to reduce the number of children placed with parents on the Wirral and the increased use of Supervision Orders where there is improved oversight and review.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1 The procedure ensures that there will be independent quality assurance and implementation of agreed support plans when a Supervision Order is issued. It also makes sure that the impact of the work will be considered and reviewed at the end of the order to assess whether the issues have been resolved and determine whether continued support is required.

2.2 The procedure sets out information about Supervision Orders and the process for practitioners to follow which ensure that the robust oversight, outlined above can be achieved.

3. UPON ISSUE BY THE COURT

3.1 Upon issue of a Supervision Order by the court, the Social Worker should inform the Safeguarding Unit that the Order has been issued.

3.2 The child’s personal details, ID number and the date of commencement of the order should be sent through to [safeguardingunit@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingunit@wirral.gov.uk).

3.3 Upon receipt, the Safeguarding Unit will allocate an IRO for oversight of the Supervision Order.

3.4 The name of the IRO will be made available to the Social Worker and added to ‘involvements’ on the Liquidlogic case file of the child.

4. SUPERVISION ORDER INFORMATION

4.1 The making of the Supervision Order will trigger a rewriting of the case summary on Liquidlogic by the Social Worker. The following specific information should be included;

1. The date the order was made and its planned expiry date
2. Any other orders that exist (for example Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Order)
3. Any specific wording in the Court Order relating to the making of the order, for example to support contact or any other defined tasks.
4. The Local Authority plan to ‘advise, assist and befriend’ the child concerned and who will be responsible to individual tasks (this information may only be available following the 1st Child in Need Plan being agreed).

4.2 The Social Worker will progress the Plan under the Child in Need process as per the local authority procedures. During this time, the Social Worker should not expect ongoing interaction with the IRO although advice and guidance would be available, if required.

5. REVIEWS OF SUPERVISION ORDERS

5.1 The IRO will however conduct a Review meeting of the Supervision Order after the first Child in Need meeting has administered the implementation of the Supervision Order and a proposed support Plan has been produced as a working document.

5.2 The objective of this initial Review meeting is to ensure that the intervention as outlined in the Supervision Order has started in a timely way and that quality of planning and actions to be taken are clear, SMART and consistent with the needs of the family.

5.3 Where findings suggest that this is not the case, an immediate **escalation** should be raised with management to ensure agreed actions committed to are fully applied. IRO’s should note that changes to work can be made but that should be in response to the presenting situation.

5.4 The next intervention by the IRO will be to chair a Review meeting no later than 9 months after the commencement of the Order with the specific purpose of;

1. formally reviewing the child’s Plan;
2. reviewing progress made; and,
3. considering whether a further application should be requested to extend the Supervision Order for a further period of time.

5.5 The following key points should be covered for each Review meeting:

* Summary of events leading to the Supervision Order
* How has the support plan been implemented?
* Any significant incidents or events since the Supervision Order issued?
* What actions have been undertaken to address new challenges?
* What has been the progress made
* Impact for the child’s Lived Experience
* Impact for the Adults lived experience
* Areas of Concern remaining
  + Impact for the Child’s Lived Experience
  + Impact for the Adults lived Experience

5.6 The following key analysis should be undertaken:

* Summary progress made
* Evidence of parenting practice internalised
* Statement regarding threshold
* Decision regarding extending Supervision Order
* Plan for the future

5.7 A copy of a template agenda for Supervision Order Review meeting is attached at Appendix A.

5.8 The minutes are to be completed by the IRO within 10 working days. Minute distribution will include participants, Team Manager and Head of Service.

6. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

6.1 If, at this point (9 months), if there is some recognised failure in meeting the requirements of the child’s Plan but there is insufficient evidence to make a clear judgement, an immediate escalation should be raised for an urgent review.

6.2 The Social Worker will be required to undertake necessary work within **two weeks** to support a judgement being made.

6.3 Should no progress be made in two weeks following the meeting, the matter should be immediately escalated to the Head of Service to ensure the matter is addressed.

6.4 A further Review meeting should be convened and concluded by the end of month 10. At this meeting, the Head of Service will attend and participate in the discussion regarding threshold and next steps.

6.5 The purpose of the Head of Service attending is to facilitate immediate oversight and agreement to progress, if required to go to Legal Gateway. It will also allow the Head of Service to review the quality and consistency of the intervention to date as part of management oversight.

7. OUTCOME FROM THE REVIEW

7.1 Once the review meeting has been held, the Head of Service and the Team Manager will review the outcomes of the meeting and decide. There will be two potential outcomes from the Review;

**OUTCOME A:** That no further legal action is required, because the threshold no longer applies and support, if any, will be offered via CIN or Early Help, for example.

Or;

**OUTCOME B:** That the Review identified that insufficient progress had been made and a further extension of the Supervision Order should be sought.

7.2 In the case of **OUTCOME B**, the Head of Service and Team Manager should agree what evidence in conjunction with the minutes, should be submitted to Legal Gateway for discussion and approval for an application to extend the Supervision Order.

7.3 As a minimum, in **all** circumstances when a return to Legal gateway is required, part of the evidence back to the courts must include:

1. Why has the Supervision Order been unsuccessful in addressing the concerns?
2. What are the ongoing concerns that reaches threshold?
3. The nature of the proposed plans moving forwarded
4. What the service commitments being proposed are
5. Expected outcomes of a further Supervision Order

8. FURTHER ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

8.1 An accompanying procedure and flow chart will be made available to support the policy.

8.2 The policy will be circulated to all staff and uploaded on the Procedures Online for access. Staff briefings regarding the procedure may be provided if necessary.

8.3 Further advice and guidance in relation to the process both for the Safeguarding Unit and the Social Worker can be provided by relevant Team Managers and/or Heads of Service.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

9.1 Regular audit and review by senior managers will be undertaken to ensure that the process and procedure is being following correctly that there are improvements of IRO oversight of Supervision Orders.

9.2 The procedure will be reviewed annually. The next date for review will be May 2020.

**APPENDIX A Template agenda for IRO meeting**

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| **IRO MEETING RE: SUPERVISION ORDER**  **AGENDA**   1. Summary of events leading to the Supervision Order   2. How has the support plan been implemented?  3. Any significant incidents or events since the Supervision Order issued?  4. Actions undertaken to address new challenges  5. Progress Made   * Impact for the child’s Lived Experience * Impact for the Adults lived experience   6. Areas of Concern remaining   * Impact for the Child’s Lived Experience * Impact for the Adults lived Experience   *Analysis*   * Summary progress made * Evidence of parenting practice internalised * Statement regarding threshold * Decision regarding extending Supervision Order * Plan for the future |