**Standard 5: Working with Children in Need (CiN)**

**Standard Key area**

5.1 An assessment has been completed that indicates that a child requires a CiN service to promote their safety and wellbeing or a child is no longer subject to a child protection plan but requires a CiN plan to continue the work to promote the child’s safety and wellbeing, and ensure sustainability in the future.

5.2 If a child protection plan is ended the chair of the CP conference will ensure that there is an outline CiN plan and set a CiN meeting within 4 weeks. The chair of the CP conference will identify the professionals involved, their roles and responsibilities and the allocated social worker will chair the first CiN meeting.

5.3 If the first CiN meeting is convened following assessment in the Assessment Service, the first CiN meeting will be chaired by the Assessment Service assessing social worker.

5.4 Subsequent meetings to review the CiN plan will be chaired by the allocated social worker (unless an ASYE or student or otherwise agreed by the Practice Lead). The CiN meeting should be held in an environment that makes sure the family and child can easily attend e.g.

family home, school, or children’s centre or virtually.

5.5 Consideration should be given to whether the child should attend for at least part of the CiN meeting. If it is not considered appropriate for the child to attend then an advocate should be supported to attend to represent the child.

5.6 The CiN plan should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) and focused on improving outcomes for the child. The plan should be multi-agency and be agreed at the first CiN meeting. Plans should also include a contingency in the event that outcomes are not achieved.

5.7 The plan will include working with the strengths in the family. Progress will be measured to help the family and professionals working with them understand how things are improving.

5.8 Following the first CiN meeting, meetings to review the CiN plan will be held at a minimum of every 6- 8 weeks. The Practice Lead will chair the 6 month review this review should consider whether it is appropriate for social care involvement to end or the case to step down, consideration should be made as to whether escalation to child protection is required if satisfactory progress is not being made.

5.9 Decisions and minutes from the CiN meeting will be recorded on the electronic system by the social worker, within 5 working days.

5.10 Everyone involved in the CiN meeting will receive a copy of the CiN plan within 10 working days.

5.11 A child subject to a CiN plan will be seen at least every 20 working days. Children can and should be seen more frequently if the case demands as directed by the Practice Lead.

5.12 The progress of the CiN plan should be monitored through supervision that takes place bimonthly. A supervision record of progress and barriers to progress will be recorded on the child’s file.

5.13 All children subject to a CiN plan will have an updated C&F assessment at a minimum of 12 monthly. If the child is 5 years or younger the C&F should be updated at a minimum of 6 monthly or if there has been a significant change to the child’s circumstances.

5.14 Points 5.1 – 5.13 will apply to children supported by the DCYPS team under the framework of CiN where safeguarding issues have been identified.

5.15 Children who are supported by the DCYPS team due to their complex needs and high package of support (CIN 2) should also be supported in line with the above, unless a longer time range of visits and reviews has been agreed by the Service Manager.