**Midway Reviews for CIC**

Purpose

The midway review for IROs is a tracking tool to ensure that IROs are formally scrutinising the progress of care-plans in between statutory reviews.

IROs maintain a strong footprint on the files of Children in Care in Derbyshire, but a formal tracking process, ensures both minimal levels of scrutiny and additionally, the ability for this to be monitored via Management Information processes.

The Care Planning regulations\* set out the arrangements the Local Authority must make for looking after a child and the making of a care plan is central to these requirements. The care plan will contain information about how the child’s current developmental needs will be met as well as the arrangements for the current and longer-term care for the child. It ensures that there is a clear plan for the child’s future to which everyone is working, including the child, the team around the child and, where appropriate, the family.

To ensure that there is not drift in the progress of the child’s care plan, the IRO is required to monitor this throughout the child’s journey through care and not just at the statutory reviews.

The IRO Handbook 2010 sets out the requirements of the IRO role;

*2.11 There are now two clear and separate aspects to the function of the IRO:*

 *i. chairing the child’s review; and*

*ii. monitoring the child’s case on an ongoing basis*

It is important to note that IROs should continue to be updated by the Social Worker in the event of a change/event in the child’s life that is significant.

\**The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 2: Care planning, Placement and Case Review, ch 2: Care Planning. July 2021*

Midway Review Process

A Mosaic ‘ IRO Midway Review’ workflow was introduced in April 2023 to replace the midway review template.

During the course of completing the midway review workflow, the IRO may identify that further actions are needed which could include a discussion with the social work team or other involved professional or could result in a positive escalation being completed or an informal/formal dispute.

If no further actions are identified, there is progress against the decisions from the previous statutory review and the care-plan is progressing, the IRO may not need to contact the social work team.

3.74 The monitoring role of the IRO is set out in the 1989 Act [section25B,1989Act]. Between reviews, if the care plan continues to meet the needs of the child there may be no need for any communication between the IRO and the social worker or the child (The IRO Handbook 2010)

The Frequency of the Midway Review

The formal midway review process is not expected between the 1st and 2nd statutory reviews (after a child enters care or experiences a placement breakdown or move to an adoptive home). The care-plan will be evolving during this period and separate communication is expected between the IRO and the social work team.

The midway review process will commence between the 3 month and the 6 month review and at a midway intervals thereafter i.e between 6 month reviews.

The IRO will set themselves the date for the midway review at the point that they arrange the next formal statutory review. They will inform the child and review attendees (carer, parent and involved professionals) that this is what they will be doing, to instil confidence that review decisions will be followed up to avoid drift.

Chris Lavelle & Stacy Downes

Assistant Heads of Service

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