

## LBTH Procedure for Supervision Orders

This policy is aimed at improving our practice with children on Supervision Orders – how we support, manage and review these cases effectively. A couple of important changes are being introduced to this effect – CIROs chairing the initial and the review before case is presented to LPM as well as introducing a mandatory Supervision Support Plan, to be filed with final evidence.

Supervision Orders are made under section 31 of the Children Act 1989. Supervision Orders are made on the same basis as Care Orders i.e., that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Unlike a Care Order, a supervision order does not give the local authority any parental responsibility. The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child rests on her/his parents (or carer). However, the Local Authority is under a duty to advise, assist and befriend the child.

Initially, a Supervision Order lasts for 6 months to 1 year. The Local Authority can apply to the court to extend the Supervision Order, but the Supervision Order can only be in place for a maximum of three years.

As children on Supervision Orders have been deemed by a court to have met the significant harm threshold, all professionals must remain alert to the possibility of on-going harm. Where risk continues or new risks emerge consideration should be given to returning to court.

### ***Decision to seek a Supervision Order:***

The decision to seek a Supervision Order will be made at the final care planning meeting chaired by the relevant Head of Service. The duration of Supervision Order sought will be discussed and agreed at this meeting as well. SW teams should invite the Group Manager for CIROs to this care planning meeting, so that the case can be allocated to a CIRO without delay and can be reviewed set timescales following the conclusion of the proceedings.

### ***Supervision Support Plan:***

Following the Care planning meeting, the SW team will prepare a Supervision Support Plan along with the final statement and files these in Court. If the Supervision Order is sought to be designated to another Local Authority, it's good practice to develop the Supervision Support Plan (see the template below) jointly with the Local Authority to which Supervision Order is sought to be designated. Please note that the Supervision Support Plan will be the CIN plan on these cases and there is no need to create a separate CIN plan.

It is possible that the Supervision Support Plan filed by the Local Authority is reviewed by other parties in Court – such as parents, children's guardian as well as by the Judge at the final hearing and amendments are proposed. It's also possible that the Judge may make recitals in the Final Order on specific matters – such as services to be provided, tests and assessments to be done etc. In such situations, the SW team will need to amend the Supervision Support Plan accordingly.

**Case transfer:**

From now on, all cases on Supervision Orders will sit within Family Support and Protection. If a case in CLA with a care plan for Supervision Order, the case must be placed on transfer list to FSP and case should be readied for transfer immediately after the final hearing. The case transfer point will be the first review, attended by TMs and SWs of both services.

**Frequency of Statutory Visits to the Children:**

Children on Supervision Orders must be visited at least every 4 weeks.

**Review of children on Supervision Orders:**

The SW team will update allocated CIRO/Group Manager for CIROs and CP Admin of the outcome of the final hearing in Court.

All cases on Supervision Orders will be reviewed on a 6 weekly basis. The CIN plan will undergo an Initial Review within 30 days, chaired by the CIRO. The CIRO will then chair a further review no later than at 9 months (for 12-month Supervision Order) and no later than 4 months (in case of a 6-month Supervision Order) and make a recommendation as to whether an extension of Supervision Order is required. Prior to this review, the SW will complete an updating assessment on the case. The reviews in between the reviews chaired by the CIRO will be chaired by the Team Manager.

**IRO Resolution Process:**

*IRO Alerts on Supervision Orders cases will have the same IRO Resolution Process as children on Child Protection Plans.*

**Review by the LPM:**

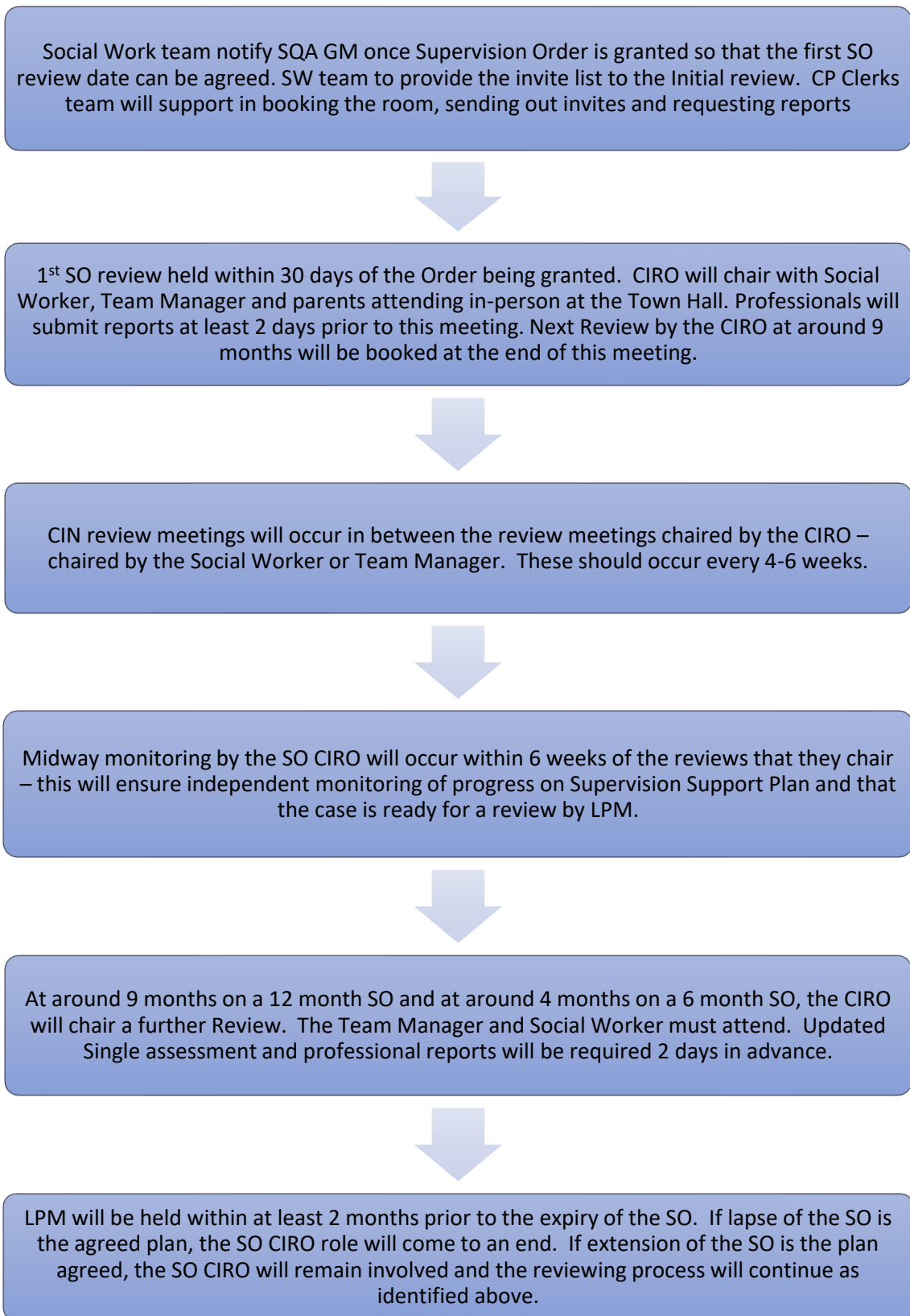
Children on Supervision Orders must be referred to LPM at least 2 months prior to their expiry. A review by the CIRO must take place before the case is presented to the LPM. Referrals to LPM must accompany a clear recommendation from the SW team and CIRO and a plan forward. If the recommendation is to seek an extension of the Supervision Order, an updated Supervision Support Plan should accompany the referral. If the recommendation is for the lapse of Supervision Order, a clear step-down plan should be provided.

**Interim Supervision Orders:**

If an Interim Supervision Order is granted on a case in proceedings, the SW team should formulate Supervision Support Plan and it should be reviewed within 30 days from the date order was made. If the case is subject to CP Plan when an Interim Supervision Order is made, a discussion between the CIRO and TM will occur to determine whether the CP plan needs to remain in place. If the decision is to step down from CP plan, the RCPC will be brought forward and will be chaired by the CIRO. The subsequent CIN reviews will be chaired by the Team Manager.

The Supervision Order CIN Reviewing Process Flowchart is below:

### Supervision Order CIN Reviewing Process Flow Chart



## What you need to know about Supervision Orders

### **What is a Supervision Order?**

Supervision Orders are made under section 31. Children Act 1989 (legislation.gov.uk) Supervision Orders are made on the same basis as care orders i.e., that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. These orders do not give parental responsibility to the Local Authority.

Initially, a Supervision Order lasts for 6 months- 1 year. The Local Authority can apply to the court to extend the Supervision Order, but the Supervision Order can only be in place for a maximum of three years.

### **When the Supervision Order in force it is the duty of the Local Authority to:**

1. Advise, assist and befriend the child;
2. Take steps that are reasonably necessary to give support the child;
3. Where the order is not complied with or the supervisor considers that the order is no longer necessary, to consider whether or not to apply to the court to vary or discharge the order.

**Key Practice Note:** As children on Supervision Orders have been deemed by a court to have met the significant harm threshold, all professionals must remain alert to the possibility of on-going harm. Where risk continues or new risks emerge consideration should be given to returning to court.

### **What does this look like in Practice? (Supervision orders)**

Child/ren will have a named social worker who will continue to visit and work with the family at least every 4 weeks.

There will be CIN reviews on a 6 weekly frequency involving all key professionals and the family. A CIRO will chair 2 of the CIN review meetings (see the flow chart) to ensure the Supervision Support Plan is being implemented. The Social Worker or Team Manager will chair the rest of the CIN meetings.

### **What does this look like in Practice (Interim Supervision Orders)**

If the child(ren) are subject to CP Plans at the point the ISO is granted - a discussion between the CIRO and TM will take place to determine whether the CP plan needs to remain in place. If the decision is to cease the CP Plan, the RCPC will be brought forward and will be chaired by the CIRO. Subsequent CIN reviews will be chaired by Team Managers.

## SUPERVISION SUPPORT PLAN

**Child's name:**

Date of Birth:

Current Legal status of child:

Local Authority: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Child's Address:

Date plan was completed:

**INDIVIDUAL WORKER RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING THIS PLAN**

Name:

Agency: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Address: 4th Floor, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG

Telephone: 0207 364 xxxx

Email: .....@towerhamlets.gov.uk

**Purpose of this plan:**

This is a Supervision Support Plan is in support of Local Authority's Care plan for xxxx to be made subject of a Supervision Order for a period of xx months. The support plan will set out the Local Authority's expectations from xx's parents and the family, as well as support that will be offered to the family by the Local Authority with timescales in order to improve the outcomes for xx.

This plan will take effect as soon as the Supervision Order is granted. The Supervision Support Plan will form the Child in Need Plan and will be reviewed every 6 weeks.

No	Identified Needs	What actions or services are agreed for the child/family	Who is responsible for any identified actions and services for the child/family?	Timescales (approx. Start and end date)	Planned outcome and Plan for Review
1	Health: (A brief summary of the child/young person's health and any particular needs that will be addressed)				

<b>2</b>	Education: (A brief summary of the child/young person's current educational development, progress and achievements and any particular needs that will be addressed)				
<b>3</b>	Emotional and Behavioural Development: (A brief summary of the child/young person's emotional and behavioural development and any particular needs that will be addressed)				
<b>4</b>	Identity: (A brief summary of the child/young person's sense of self and any particular needs that will be addressed)				
<b>5</b>	Family and Social Relationships: (A brief summary of the child/young person's important relationships and their wishes and feelings about these and any particular needs that will be addressed)				
<b>6</b>	Contact: (Outline of proposed arrangements for contact (indirect, direct, virtual, telephone, letters)				
<b>9</b>					
<b>10</b>					

**Signed by:**

Ms (Mother): \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Mr (Father): \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Special Guardians (If): \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: