**London Borough of Tower Hamlets Edge of Care Resources Panel**

**Terms of Reference August 2023**

1. Introduction

The accommodation of a child by the Local Authority is a very serious decision and one that should not be taken without due process. The Children’s Edge of Care Resources Panel (The Resources Panel) has a critical function in identifying children, in the age range of 11 to 17, who can be maintained within their families or with their existing carers with packages of support provided by an Edge of Care service.

1. Purpose
2. To ensure that, where possible, every consideration is given to maintaining a child safely within their home environment or extended family.
3. To reduce the avoidable use of in care solutions in favour of community based edge of care solutions.
4. To ensure that all children will have had the advantage of a Family Group Conference to determine an understanding of what is required to maintain the child at home, achieve successful family reunification or, alternatively, to determine other options that need to be considered.
5. To ensure that Edge of Care resources are packaged to meet the needs of the child and the parents or carers.
6. To ensure that the council’s resources are appropriately allocated and provide best value for money.
7. When to use the panel

The use of the Resources Panel is limited to cases of children when:

* it has been assessed or agreed that a child between 11 and 17 years of age requires an Edge of Care support to prevent a family crisis which may result in the child avoidably entering the care system without the provision of targeted Edge of Care resources.

or

* a child aged between 11 and 17 years of age is Looked After by the Local Authority and has a Care Plan, endorsed at a Looked After children’s review and approved by a service manager, of rehabilitation home.

1. Process

Referrals to the panel for any edge of care service must be discussed with and approved by a team manager after considering all suitable options and potential solutions.

The Edge of Care resources panel does not replace the normal care planning function of social workers and their managers. However, if there are circumstances where a team manager is uncertain whether a referral should be made to the resources panel they should discuss the case with the Edge of Care service for guidance.

The Edge of Care Service Referral Form should be completed and submitted to the Panel Administrator by the Friday afternoon before the Tuesday panel meeting. The administrator will then notify the social worker and team manager of the time to attend.

The social worker should also ensure that the following documentation is updated and available in advance of the panel:

* relevant assessments
* an up to date chronology
* a genogram
* the outcomes of a Family Group Conference
* an outline of the edge of care support that is being requested.

The team manager and the social worker will present the case to the panel using a brief written report.

1. Case Presentation Guidance for Social Workers and Team Managers

* The social worker and team manager are required to present an update explaining the reasons why an edge of care support is required. This should specify any services that are being requested as part of the support and the reasons for the request.
* A brief history of CSC involvement with the family including any significant events, court orders, child protection plans and current services. The report may also refer to some issues set out in the following list. However, there is no expectation that this will always be necessary and report authors should abide by the maxim that succinct, focused and evaluative writing is most helpful.
* Presenting reason / issue for which resources are requested.
* What has already been attempted to resolve the problem?
* Reasons for and against the resource(s) requested (e.g. positive features of the family relationship)
* Have all appropriate relatives or friends been contacted and asked to help in the care for the child or young person? What has been their response? Is there anyone else not yet contacted?
* What are the views, wishes and feelings of the child / young person?
* The panel will question if a Family Group Conference has been explored, as part of the case planning. Family group conferences are used well to bring the extended network around the family for extra support.
* What are the views of the parents? Has consent been sought to work with edge of care?
* How could the home situation be changed to prevent the need for accommodation / resource requested? What resources / action would accomplish this?
* Health care needs
* Education issues including school placement issues
* Siblings

1. The Panel

The meeting will take place fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon via Teams.

The Panel Administrator will take the minutes and upload them on to the child’s mosaic case file.

The panel chair will make the final decision on whether an Edge of Care service will be provided and whether this will be provided by the Service.

The panel chair can sometimes decide for some initial work to be completed with the YP or family, especially when much has not been explored by the SW in terms of direct work, family Group Conference etc.

1. Panel Membership

The group manager for Regulated Services and Resources (Chair)

Team managers for Edge of Care Service (Chair)

A clinical representative from the Edge of Care Service

A representative from the Exploitation Service

A representative from the Early Help Service

The Family Group Conference Service and the panel administrator (minutes)