

**LBTH Practice Guidance on Supervision Orders**

This policy is aimed at improving our practice with children on Supervision Orders – how we support, manage and review this area of our work effectively. A couple of important changes are being introduced to this effect – CIROs chairing the initial and the review before the child/ren 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. They 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.

***Supervision Support Plan:***

Following the Care Planning meeting, the SW team will prepare a Supervision Support Plan (see the template below) along with the final statement and file 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 jointly with the Local Authority to which the Supervision Order is sought to be designated. Please note that the Supervision Support Plan will be the CIN plan for these children and there is no requirement 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 children on Supervision Orders will sit within the Family Support and Protection service (FSP). If the child is in care and allocated in the Children Looked After service (CLA) and the care plan is Supervision Order, arrangements **must** be made for the child to be placed on the transfer list to FSP and the child’s record should be readied for transfer immediately after the final hearing. The transfer point for children between the two services will be the first SO CIN review that will be held within 30 days of the Order being made and attended by TMs and SWs from both services. The relevant team manager in CLA and Group Manager in FSP will liaise when the order is made, and before the first CIRO chaired review, to make arrangements for the transfer between the two services.

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

Children on Supervision Orders must be visited at least every 4 weeks and the visit recorded on the CIN visit form in the child’s record.

***Review of children on Supervision Orders:***

The SW team will update the Group Managers for Childrens Independent Reviewing Officers (CIROs) and Child Protection administrators (and the allocated CIRO if one is already involved) of the outcome of the final hearing in the court proceedings. If at the end of proceedings a Supervision Order is granted, the first review by the CIRO should take place within 30 days of the order being made, counting the day the order was made as the day one. CIRO’s is the common title for Child Protection Chairs (CPC) and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO). Where children were being supported as Child n Need (CIN), or under a Child Protection Plan (CPP) prior to the SO being made, a CPC will be allocated to chair the meeting. Where children were in care under S20 or an ICO at the point the order was made, their allocated IRO will chair the first meeting.

All children on Supervision Orders will have SO CIN review meetings on a 6-weekly basis. The CIRO will then chair a further review no later than at 9 months (for a 12-month Supervision Order) and no later than 4 months (in the case of a 6-month Supervision Order) and make a recommendation as to whether an extension of the Supervision Order is required. Prior to this final CIRO review, the SW will complete an updating assessment. If the plan is not to renew the Supervision Order, a clear step-down plan will be devised at the final review by the CIRO.

The reviews in between the reviews chaired by the CIRO will be chaired by the Social Workers, however at least one review in between the reviews by the CIROs (ideally one midway through the duration of the Supervision Order) should be chaired by the Team Manager to ensure sufficient oversight on the progress of the Supervision Support Plan.

***CIRO Resolution Process:***

CIRO resolutions on children subject to Supervision Orders will have the same CIRO Resolution Process as children on Child Protection Plans. CIROs must use this mechanism consistently if practice issues are noted. ([resolution-process-for-child-protection-feb-23.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fproceduresonline.com%2Ftrixcms%2Fmedia%2F7934%2Fresolution-process-for-child-protection-feb-23.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)). CIRO’s will be expected to send a resolution after the first review if arrangements have not been made for children in CLA to be transferred to FSP.

***Review by the LPM:***

Children on Supervision Orders must be referred for a Legal Planning Meeting (LPM) at least 2 months prior to their expiry. A review by the CIRO must take place before the child/ren are 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 the Supervision Order, a clear step-down plan should be provided.

***Interim Supervision Orders:***

If an Interim Supervision Order is granted during proceedings, the SW team should alert the Group Managers for CIROs and formulate a Supervision Support Plan which should be reviewed by the CIRO within 30 days from the date the order was made. If the child is subject to a 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, and this will also be the first SO CIN review. The subsequent CIN reviews will be chaired by the Social Workers or Team Managers. At least one review should be chaired by the Team Manager as in the case of Supervision Orders as above.

**Any Queries, Please contact**:

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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 is 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 to 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.

**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. For children in care at the point the ISO is granted, the IRO will chair the first review within 30 days and again within 30 days of a SO being granted at the final hearing. Arrangements will also need to be made for the child’s record to be readied for transfer to FSP by the time of the first review after the SO is granted

**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 and the Team Manager will chair at least one meeting prior to the 4 or 9 month meeting chaired by the CIRO.

**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: Whitechapel Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

Telephone: 0207 364 xxxx

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

**Purpose of this plan:**

This Supervision Support Plan is in support of the 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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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)* |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Education: *(A brief summary of the child/young person's current educational development, progress, achievements, aspirations and any particular needs that will be addressed)* |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 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)* |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Identity: *(A brief summary of the child/young person's sense of self and any particular needs that will be addressed)* |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 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)* |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Family time arrangements: *(Outline of proposed arrangements for family time (indirect, direct, virtual, telephone, letters)* |  |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Signed by:**

Ms (Mother):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:

Mr (Father):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:

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

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: