**This template should be used to provide a rationale for decisions that need to be made in balancing risk for children and young people, including the use of unregistered or unregulated (care) arrangements, the use of secure and other such high-level risks.**

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| **Details of the Team Manager completing the defensible decision making:** | |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Team/service:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

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| **Child’s Details:** | |
| **Full Name (including Alias):** |  |
| **Date of Birth:** |  |
| **LCS Number:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Any other relevant children (siblings):** |  |
| **Please indicate the child’s status:** |  |
| **Has the CP Chair been alerted?** |  |
| **Has the IRO been alerted?** |  |
| **Has legal advice been sought?** |  |
| **Have ESWT been informed?** |  |

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| 1. **Brief Summary of the critical decision under consideration:** *(What is the issue that needs oversight and agreement from the Service Director?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Assessment of Risk:** *(Clearly outline whether a risk assessment has been completed. How is the concern being managed and addressed, and by whom? Are there any challenges to managing the risk; what are these, and what is being done to address this?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Outline the key elements of the safety plan.** *What are the key actions being taken to mitigate the risks, and what is the identified contingency plan (including for ESWT). If there are key meetings due to take place, please identify what and when. If there is not a safety plan, one should be completed as a matter of urgency as the defensible decision cannot be signed off without this plan.* | | | | |
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| 1. **What are the views, wishes and feelings of the child/YP, parent or carer?** *How have these been balanced against the presenting risks?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Have the right professionals been consulted, including legal advisors, professional and independent experts?** *(A parent if the child remains in the family; Cafcass, legal team, parties where proceedings are in place; the IRO where the child is looked after; the CP chair where a child protection plan is in place, Virtual School, Education Provision, Special Educational Needs, Health)* | | | | |
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| 1. **Have alternative options have been considered?** *(please specify if the answer is yes. For example, if an unregistered provision is proposed, what searches have taken place for a registered provision and what other alternative options have been explored?)* | | | | |
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| 1. **Date for review of the defensible decision** | | |  | |
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| **HEAD OF SERVICE REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the HoS endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Head of Service:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED:** |  | **Print Service Manager Name:** | | **DATE:** |
| **SERVICE DIRECTOR REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the SD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Service Director for Provider Services:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED:** |  | **Print Service Director Name:**  **Emma Kavanagh** | | **DATE:** |
| **SERVICE DIRECTOR REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the SD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Service Director for Children’s Social Care:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED** |  | **Print Service Director Name:**  **Alison Munt** | | **DATE:** |

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| **Defensible decision-making update:** | |
| Name: |  |
| Team: |  |
| Date Updated defensible decision making completed: |  |
| Next Update Due: |  |
| **Provide an update of developments since last defensible decision making form was completed:** | |
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| **SERVICE DIRECTOR REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION: (does the SD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)** | |

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| **SERVICE DIRECTOR** | | | |
| **SIGNED** |  | **Print Service Director Name:** | **DATE:** |

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| **Title** | **Defensible Decision-Making Template** |
| **Approved by** | **Senior Leadership Team** |
| **Date** | **03.01.25** |
| **Version** | **V1** |
| **Status** | **Final** |
| **Frequency** | **Annually** |
| **Next review date** | **December 2025** |