

## Bristol City Council Children and Families Services Practice Direction.

**Practice Direction regarding:** Family/Network Meetings

**Date of implementation:** 01<sup>st</sup> February 2020

**Practice Change required:** A new LCS/EHM form has been created in order to record and monitor the use of family/network meetings.

In line with the Signs of Safety model, a family/network meeting should be undertaken as part of establishing an effective family support/safety plan for children. This is in recognition that early identification and involvement of the children's support/safety networks can prove to be advantageous in identifying safety, developing contingency plans and achieving permanency for children.

1. A family/network meeting should take place at the earliest possible opportunity and within no more than 12 weeks from the date our involvement commenced. The child/family should take the lead in identifying who they wish to be present at the family meeting.
2. The need for further network/family meetings following the initial meeting will be at the discretion of the practice lead/manager/consultant social worker. Family/network meetings should be considered for all children including children currently in care. For children in care lifelong connections and family networks should be considered in each review as part of the care plan.
3. Family/network meetings should be recorded on the family/network form in LCS. The outcome of the meeting should be uploaded to LCS within five working days of the meeting having taken place.
4. If a decision is made not to hold a family/network meeting within the first 12 weeks of our involvement with a child/family then the rationale for this should be recorded by a Team Manager/Practice Lead/Consultant Social Worker in a case direction.

**Quality Assurance of practice change:** Compliance with the Practice Direction will be monitored by the quality assurance framework as well as within deep dive audits and monitoring of requests to legal panel.

**Service Areas / roles applicable:** The Practice Direction is applicable to all Area, DCS and Through Care social work teams. FIF teams should upload Family/Network meeting forms to EHM. The Pathway Decision Team should give consideration to the use of a family meeting at the beginning of their assessment period where appropriate.

**Date of Change:** 01/02/2020 **PSW:** James McFeat

**Objective:** Practice Directions are intended to provide clarity of any change of expectations in practice OR clarity on elements of practice where there is confusion. Practice Directions are intended for practitioners and managers. Practice Directions enable an audit trail of change in practice expectations to be maintained.

**Process:** Children's Management Team will consider and approve PD's. The PSW will issue and ensure that Practice Directions are entered onto Tri-x as appropriate.