

Bristol City Council Care and Support, Children and Families

Practice Direction

Practice Directions are supported by:

- Working Together 2015
- HCPC Standards
- South West Child Protection Procedures
- Bristol Care and Support, Children and Families, Quality Assurance Framework

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

Process: Children's Management Team will consider and approve Practice Directions. Practice Directions will be entered onto Tri-X.

Practice Change: Recording of management decision making/ case directions/ recording oversight outside formal supervision.

The process of decision-making and risk assessment in respect of individual children needs to be clearly evidenced on LCS. This is not consistently the case as decisions, discussions and the sharing of significant information outside of formal supervision are not being routinely recorded. This practice direction outlines decisions or changes in arrangements that should be recorded on LCS.

The following should be recorded on LCS under type of contact as 'case direction' with a subheading of management decision/direction/oversight/significant information sharing (delete as relevant):

- Significant information relating to risk/safety of a child.
- Any changes to an agreed safety plan along with a brief rationale about why a change has been made.
- Impact on child and child's voice recorded.
- Any other significant management direction or decision making relevant to risk/safety of a child.

The expectation is that this information is recorded very briefly in a line or two but could extend beyond this, for example recording of a 'critical case discussion' with Senior Managers. A number of examples of the general level of information required are detailed below.

The decision/direction/information sharing can be recorded by either the manager making the decision, the practitioner or a unit coordinator. Who is going to do the recorded should be agreed and actioned immediately.

Quality Assurance of practice change:

Compliance with this Practice Direction will be monitored by deep dive audit of case records.

Service Areas / roles applicable:

Unit Coordinators, Social Workers, Consultant Social Workers

Date of Change: 31-05-18

Examples of recording of management decision making/directions/oversight outside formal supervision.

Example 1: Change in safety plan agreed on the basis that Grandmother's partner has now left the home so potential risks to Simon are reduced. Grandmother seems committed to this – situation to be monitored by Auntie Sue.

Example 2: John has now gone missing 5 times in 2 weeks – this is a significant escalation. Social Worker to meet with John tomorrow and explore reasons for this. Sit-down strategy to be convened by Practice Lead/CSW.

Example 3: Social Worker very concerned about Mum's deteriorating mental health – agreed increase in FSW visits to twice weekly and SW to contact crisis team for discussion.

Example 4: Mum is finding it hard to get to contact twice weekly, agreed to change to one longer session as long as this is ok with the children – SW to discuss with children and then confirm with CSW/PL.

Example 5: Police checks on carers have identified historic sexual offences. Implications of this on current unsupervised contact discussed with children's social worker.