**Access to Resources**

**Panel**

**Terms of Reference,**

**Aim**

Is to ensure that additional resources are used effectively and efficiently. That there is effective oversight of the ongoing use of resources and an audit trail of decisions and financial spend.

**Function of panel**

The panels function is to consider applications for additional resources and this could be a short term provision in a crisis situation or a longer term provision in accordance with the child’s assessed needs.

The panel has a critical function in supporting children and young people who can be maintained within their families or with their existing carers with packages of support and this covers a wide range of situations and circumstances.

This includes situations where there are ongoing financial implications for the Local Authority, which exceed the cumulative financial thresholds for management agreement. Where it is clear that services is going to be required over a longer period, for instance, support for a child with complex health needs/disabilities, the panel will provide oversight of the financial package through a review process.

The panel will ensure that financial resources are appropriately allocated and provide best value for money.

**Review process**

Ongoing packages of support will be reviewed at the Access to Resource Panel. The timescale for reviewing packages of care will be made on a case by case basis and the purpose of the review is to have oversight that the support/intervention remains appropriate and is meeting the child’s needs. All ongoing packages of support will be reviewed a minimum of once a year.

**Panel decisions**

All requests presented to Access to Resource Panel will be recorded onto the respective child’s records and will provide a rational for the decision. The cost of the package will be clearly recorded a long with the timeline for reviewing the package.

**Purpose**

Allocation of resources where it has been assessed that a child or young person requires an edge of care package to prevent a family crisis which may result in the child or young person avoidably entering the care system.

Allocation of resources where it has been assessed that a child or family require a specialist equipment/adaptations. Where a child would benefit from an enabler or direct payments and where it has been assessed that there is a need for the ongoing provision of transport.

Allocation of additional resources in order to avoid placement breakdown with a view to preventing children unnecessarily having multiple placement moves. Referrals of this nature should be made as soon as possible following a disruption meeting being convened.

**Referral process**

Referrals to ATR panel must be discussed and approved by the appropriate team manager and service manager. Details of the service requested should be specified, which includes costings and clarity whether this is a short-term or longer-term request. In all cases, it is expected that a referral for a Family Group Conference (FGC) has been considered/made.

The social worker as the lead professional will complete the ATR referral and the social worker/team manager will attend panel to answer any questions.

The panel will meet on weekly basis on a Tuesday morning and referrals to panel administrator must be made by the preceding Thursday. The administrator will then notify the social worker and team manager of the time to attend.

There should be an up to date single assessment completed on PARIS.

In a crisis situation to maintain family stability and to prevent family breakdown resources can be accessed through a discussion between the relevant HOS and HOS for Regulated Service.

Panel Membership

HOS, Regulated Services (chair)

Placements team manager

Edge of Care team manager

Head of Virtual School

Named Nurse LAC

Designated Named Nurse for LAC

**Adult Social Care Transition Lead**

Fostering representative

Family Group Conference team manager

To be reviewed in April 2022