**Dual Status Guidance – Children Looked After (CLA) and Child Subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans**

Quality Assurance Service Manager

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# Context

Good practice indicates that children who are looked after (CLA) should not also need a Child Protection (CP) plan. Where a child is looked after, the Local Authority is the corporate parent, and should therefore not place a child in a situation where they are at risk of significant harm. Only in exceptional circumstances might a child who is looked after also need a CP Plan.

# Ending a CP plan for CLA

Where a CLA also has a CP plan, the first Review Child Protection Conference (RCPC) following the child becoming looked after should consider whether a CP Plan is still necessary. Members of the core group may wish to consider bringing the date of the next RCPC forward if appropriate.

If it is determined that a CP plan needs to continue, the circumstances should be made explicit in the meeting and set out in the record of the conference. If the conference agrees that a CP plan is no longer required because of the child being looked after, the conference should consider whether there needs to be a contingency safety plan if these safeguards are no longer in place.

Where the court has made an Interim Care Order (ICO) and the child is placed away from the parents, a CP plan may also be ended outside of the conference process, following written consultation with all core group members.

# Decisions to end a CP plan outside of conference

This decision may only be made in the following circumstances:

* When a child is made subject to an ICO placed away from parents
* When a child turns 18
* When a child leaves the country
* When a child has died