Bristol City Council Care and Support, Children and Families

Practice Direction

Practice Directions are supported by:

* Working Together to safeguard children 2018
* Social Work England Standards
* South West Child Protection Procedures
* Bristol Care and Support, Children and Families, Quality Assurance Framework
* Bristol Practice Framework – Children and Families Services

Objective: The aim of 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 Practice Directions. Practice Directions will be entered onto Share point.

Practice Change: Aim to end CP plans at the earliest opportunity when safety for the child can be assured. If this is not achieved by the 9 month review the following will apply:

1. **Prior to the review child protection conference at 9 months the social worker and their line manager will discuss the child in supervision, review the family owned safety plan and consider the next steps. Options to be considered are;**

* SW Recommends the CP plan ends at the conference, with the safety plan and involvement continues with a Child in Need plan This can happen when the worries have been addressed and/ or are managed by the family with their safety plan.
* SW recommends a short period of continued CP plan, to give time to develop the family owned safety plan, complete the next steps identifies to work toward the CP plan to ending at the next conference.
* Decision has been made to commence pre proceedings (PLO) or proceeding have started. The SW or CSW will contact the CP Chair, so that they are aware prior to the RCPC, this can be discussed in the conference and consider if the CP plan needs to run alongside PLO or if legal orders are made then CP plan could end. The circumstances for each child would need to be considered.

**The conversation and suggested recommendations will be recorded on LCS.**

1. **Prior to the 9 month review conference the CP chair will have a conversation with the SW / CSW about the options considered to progress the outcomes for the child. The CP chair will record this on the child’s record on LCS.**
2. **The CP Chair will facilitate the conversation in the conference to hear from family and professionals what has been happening and how the safety planning is progressing. To be able to consider the social workers recommendation, to end the CP plan at the right time for the family and when all involved can see that it is safe for the child to do so.**

Quality Assurance of practice change:

Compliance with this Practice Direction will be monitored by deep dive audit and performance indicators.

Service Areas / roles applicable:

Area Units

Through Care Teams

Birth-25 service

Child Protection Conference Service

Date of Change: June 2022

Child Protection Manager: Verity Felles

PSW: Herdaypal Johal