Bristol City Council Care and Support, Children

Practice Direction to reduce the number of repeat child protection plans

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 PD’s. The PSW will issue and ensure that Practice Directions are entered onto Tri-x.

Practice Change: To reduce the number of repeat CP plans

* When a CSW, Practice Lead or Team Manager is considering convening a multi-agency strategy discussion in order to decide whether an initial child protection conference should be convened then a check should always be made as to whether the child has been subject of a CP plan previously.
* If a child has been subject of a CP plan previously the CSW, PL or TM should have a discussion with their Area Manager/Service Manager to consider if other options should be considered i.e referral to legal panel/ pre proceedings.
* When a strategy discussion is held, partners should be made aware that the child has been previously subject of a CP plan and information should be provided to the meeting about the timeframe and context of the previous CP plan.

In some cases it will be appropriate for an initial child protection conference to be convened where a child has been previously subject of a plan. Such situations could occur if there are different family living arrangements, significant time since child was subject of a CP plan and different concerns have arisen.

Consideration should be given as to whether every child in the family should be subject of a Child Protection conference.

**When the decision has been made that it is appropriate to return to the CP process and the initial child protection conference is arranged, the CSW / SW needs to contact the CP chair to have a conversation to consider how the conference will be facilitated, share the reason it is felt that returning to the CP process is the right way forward and to consider what worked / did not work previously and how we can best engage the family.**

**The CP chair will have conversations with the Child Protection Manager when they are aware of the potential for a repeat plan for a child. This will enable close scrutiny and oversight particularly when a child has been subject of a CP plan within the previous 12 months with similar presenting concerns.**

Quality Assurance of practice change:

Compliance with Practice Directions will be monitored by deep dive audit and performance indicators where possible.

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