



Introduction

Practice research and high-profile serious case reviews highlight the value of good chronologies as an effective social work tool to

- Inform analysis and assessment of significant events in a child's life
- Understand the impact of these events on the child
- Support risk assessment and early identification of patterns or issues
- Highlight emerging needs and / or strengths
- Inform decision making
- Enable working with families to better understand their story and the effectiveness of our interventions

Expectations

A chronology must be created for every child referred to Children's Services by no later than Day 25 of the Children and Families Assessment, after which, it must be kept up to date as relevant information becomes known to the allocated worker.

Content

Good chronologies are

- Factual
- Short and simple - too much or unnecessary detail detracts from the purpose of the tool
- Focused on significant events that have a positive or negative impact on the child
- Visual, a sequential timeline of these events
- Maintained and up to date with relevant information as it becomes known
- Child centred and sensitive to the fact that it may be read by someone trying to make sense of their past at a future date

Recording chronologies

Chronologies are created and maintained in our case management system, LCS - see the process flow chart on page 2 for easy-to-follow steps. You can export a copy of the chronology to edit and print; step by step system guidance is available on the intranet [LCS User Guide Chronologies](#)

Significant events include

Referrals to Children's Services, Strategy discussions, S47 enquiries, Child Protection Conferences, admission to care, significant placement events and exit from care.

Significant referrals to other services (internal or external) and outcomes, e.g., Special Educational Needs / Youth Services etc.

Engagement with services, significant observations on visits and failure to attend appointments or refusing access

Key decisions and outcomes – e.g., Court or Agency Decision Maker

Births and deaths of significant persons.

Contacts received by the Local Authority about a family / child.

Referrals from Police / significant information shared by the Police about a family / child.

House moves or people moving in and out of the household, including details of new partners.

Education, training & employment details.

School changes, issues with attendance, inclusion, or significant incidents. Any significant changes to child's presentation in school whether positive improvement or a decline.

Significant incidences of anti-social behaviour, criminal activity or domestic violence.

Evidence of parental or young person's substance misuse / mental health difficulties.

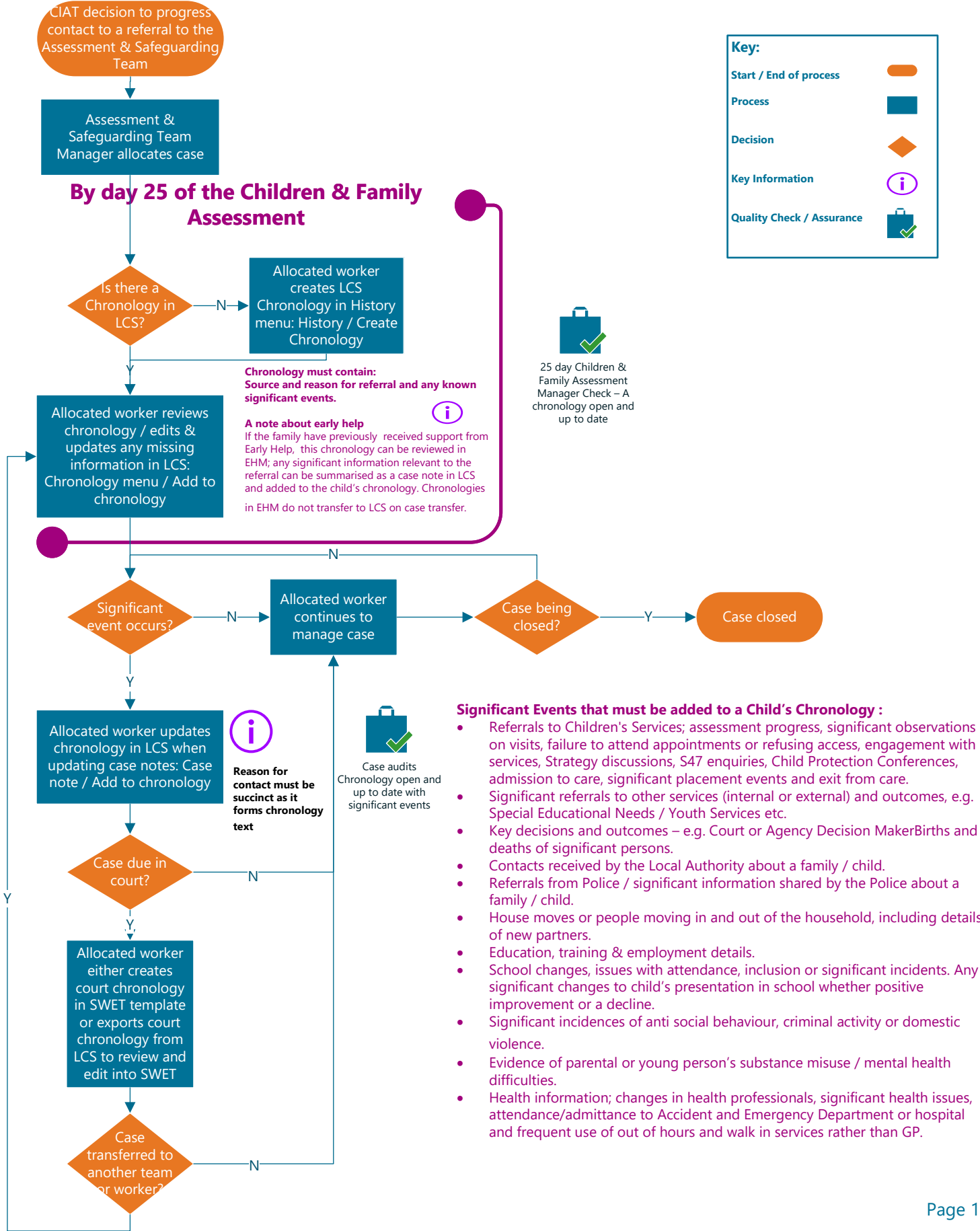
Health information: changes in health professionals, significant health issues, attendance/admittance to Accident and Emergency Department or hospital and frequent use of out of hours and walk in services rather than GP.

Links to practice information and guidance

[research in practice - chronologies](#)

[community care - chronologies](#)

[basw - recording in childrens social work](#)



- Significant Events that must be added to a Child's Chronology :**
- Referrals to Children's Services; assessment progress, significant observations on visits, failure to attend appointments or refusing access, engagement with services, Strategy discussions, S47 enquiries, Child Protection Conferences, admission to care, significant placement events and exit from care.
 - Significant referrals to other services (internal or external) and outcomes, e.g. Special Educational Needs / Youth Services etc.
 - Key decisions and outcomes – e.g. Court or Agency Decision Maker Births and deaths of significant persons.
 - Contacts received by the Local Authority about a family / child.
 - Referrals from Police / significant information shared by the Police about a family / child.
 - House moves or people moving in and out of the household, including details of new partners.
 - Education, training & employment details.
 - School changes, issues with attendance, inclusion or significant incidents. Any significant changes to child's presentation in school whether positive improvement or a decline.
 - Significant incidences of anti social behaviour, criminal activity or domestic violence.
 - Evidence of parental or young person's substance misuse / mental health difficulties.
 - Health information; changes in health professionals, significant health issues, attendance/admittance to Accident and Emergency Department or hospital and frequent use of out of hours and walk in services rather than GP.