**A guide to PAMS**

**What is a PAMS?**

A PAMS assessment is a specialist parenting assessment completed where there are concerns regarding a parent with a Learning Disability or capacity issues. It may also be appropriate where there are specific mental health concerns. The case should typically be in the PLO or Court arena. PAMS involves a 12-week assessment process using the specialist database and software. It can be done with one parent, or a couple together. Teaching recommendations are then made.

**Who does the PAMS?**

Tracy Curry is now in post as the PAMS Assessor for the organisation. Alongside Tracy, there are 9 other practitioners qualified to complete PAMS. We meet as a group on a monthly basis as part of the PAMS Forum. PAMS is overseen by Lauren Durkan and Natalie Bell, Team Managers in Long Term. We also work alongside Janice Turnbull and the Family Support Workers to provide intervention where possible, based on the teaching recommendations made.

**What should you do if you need a PAMS?**

You should discuss the need for a PAMS assessment with your Team Manager in the first instance, to seek agreement. The standard referral form should then be completed and sent to Lauren Durkan and Natalie Bell. A copy should be uploaded onto the child’s file.

When an Assessor is allocated, they will meet the Social Worker, to complete the ‘initial screening tool’ and then progress with the assessment following this.

If a PAMS assessment is directed by the Courts, the referral form should be completed urgently to avoid drift and delay, as the 12-week assessment timescale should not be reduced and is required.

**What do PAMS Workers do/don’t do:**

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| **They do:** | **They don’t:** |
| Discuss the case with the Social Worker and keep them updated throughout the assessment process. | Hold case responsibility/management to include completing statutory visits. |
| Arrange assessment sessions with the parent directly. | Chair, participate in, or attend meetings, unless for observation purposes. |
| Consider any other expert reports/professional opinions. |  |
| Observe family time sessions. |  |
| Give evidence in Court, if required. |  |
| Have formal supervision, which is recorded on the child’s file. |  |

**If you have any queries please feel free to contact Lauren Durkan or Natalie Bell to arrange a case consultation.**