This document applies to:

* Children aged 0-15 years who have been looked after under Section 20 for more than 20 working days.
* Young people aged 16 or 17 years who have been looked after under Section 20 for more than 24 hours

The aim of this document is to confirm that children and young people who are being discharged from Section 20 accommodation have plans in place which keep them safe and reduce assessed risks prior to seeking agreement to the decision from:

* The Nominated Officer for children aged 0-15 years who have been looked after under Section 20 for more than 20 working days
* The Director of Children’s Services for young people aged 16 or 17 years who have been looked after under Section 20 for 24 hours or more.

In instances where the Section 20 period is less than 20 working days for children aged 0-15 years or less than 24 hours for young people aged 16 and 17 years there does not need to be formal agreement to the ending of the Section 20; however, Team Managers and Independent Reviewing Officers should use this document to ensure all risks are identified, mitigated and children are appropriately supported.

**Children aged 0-15 years who are accommodated under Section 20 for 20 working days or more only cease to be looked after following the agreement of the Nominated Officer. Young people aged 16 and 17 years who are accommodated under Section 20 for more than 24 hours only cease to be looked after following the agreement of the Director of Children’s Services – Regulation 39, the Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2015. Applied from 1st April 2015.**

# Child or Young Person’s Details

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Child or Young Person’s Name |  | Date of Birth |  | |
| Ethnicity |  | Disability |  | |
| Planned Discharge Date(Actual date if already unplanned) |  | Mosaic ID |  | |
| Date Section 20 Accommodation started |  | |
| Who will be the child’s carer(s) and what is their relationship to the child? |  | Is the child returning to the same carer and care arrangements as those immediately prior to them becoming looked after? | Yes | No |
|  |  |

**Child or Young Person’s Summary**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What are we worried about?** | **What is working well in readiness for the child’s discharge from care?** | **What needs to happen to keep the child safe when they are discharged from care?** |
| **Past Harm (including reason for becoming looked after)** | **Existing Strengths** | **Next Steps** |
|  |  |  |
| **Future Danger** | **Existing Safety** |
|  |  |
| **Complicating Factors** |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Danger Statement** | **Safety Goals** |
|  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **0**  **10**  Danger Safety |

**On a scale of 0–10 where 10 means the child is safe enough to leave care and we no longer need to be involved and 0 means things are so dangerous for the child we must take action to keep them in care, where do you rate the child’s discharge from care?**

**Safety Planning:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Has a Family Network Meeting been held to develop a Safety Plan to support the child’s discharge from care? | Yes | No |
|  |  |
| Does the child and family have a copy of the Safety Plan? | Yes | No |
|  |  |

**Assessment of the Request:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Has an updated single assessment been completed which helps to inform this request? |  | | | |
| Where will the young person be living? With whom? What are the accommodation arrangements? Are the living arrangements suitable? |  | | | |
| Is the young person returning to the same carer and living arrangements as immediately before they became looked after? If so, what has changed to support the young person’s return home? |  | | | |
| Services and support that the child and their carers may need when the child ceases to be accommodated? |  | | | |
| What are the child or young person’s views, how have they been taken into consideration and is the child or young person able to understand the consequences of being discharged from care? |  | | | |
| Is everyone with parental responsibility aware of this request and in agreement with the proposal to discharge the young person from care? |  | | | |
| What are the views of involved health and education professionals? How have these been considered in reaching this request? |  | | | |
| Is the IRO aware of this request and are they in agreement with the young person being discharged from care? |  | | | |
| Has a pre-discharge looked after review been held? | Yes | Date: | No |  |
| Will discharging the child or young person from accommodation safeguard and promote the child’s wellbeing? | Yes |  | No |  |

**Safeguarding Considerations:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Will being discharged from care place the young person at risk of significant harm? | Yes |  | No |  |
| If Yes, what actions have been taken to ameliorate any safeguarding concerns? |  | | | |

**Consideration of Statutory Leaving Care Services Eligibility:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Is the child deemed an eligible child for ongoing support? | Yes |  | No |  |
| Has the young person’s Pathway Plan been updated and given to them? |  | | | |
| Does the Pathway Plan highlight how the young person will be supported to access education/ employment/training and how to keep themselves safe? |  | | | |
| Does the young person wish to access the support of a Personal Advisor? |  | | | |
| Have the views of the Personal Advisor been South and considered as part of this request? |  | | | |

**Discharge Assessment and Proposal Completed:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** |  | **Date** |  |
| **Signature** |  | **Role** |  |

**Head of Service Decision or Recommendation:**

Nominated Officer Decision: For children aged 0-15 years only

Recommendation to Assistant Director / Director Children’s Services: For children aged 16 and 17 years

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Head of Service Name: |  |
| **For young people aged 16 and 17 years:** Do you recommend that the young person is discharged from care? |  |
| **For children aged 0-15 years:** Do you agree that the child is discharged from care? |  |
| Are you satisfied that the plan addresses the assessed risks and support needs of the child and their carer? |  |
| Rationale for Recommendation / Decision |  |
| Additional Actions Required |  |
| Date |  |

**Assistant Director Decision or Recommendation:**

Nominated Officer Decision: For children aged 0-15 years only

Recommendation Director Children’s Services: For children aged 16 and 17 years

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assistant Director Name: |  |
| **For young people aged 16 and 17 years:** Do you recommend that the young person is discharged from care? |  |
| **For children aged 0-15 years:** Do you agree that the child is discharged from care? |  |
| Are you satisfied that the plan addresses the assessed risks and support needs of the child and their carer? |  |
| Rationale for Recommendation / Decision |  |
| Additional Actions Required |  |
| Date |  |

**Director Children’s Services Decision:**

For children aged 16 and 17 years

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Director Children’s Services Name: |  |
| **For young people aged 16 and 17 years:** Do you recommend that the young person is discharged from care? |  |
| Are you satisfied that the plan addresses the assessed risks and support needs of the child and their carer? |  |
| Rationale for Recommendation / Decision |  |
| Additional Actions Required |  |
| Date |  |