Interim & Final Court Care Plans

 Practice Guidance

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This practice guidance must be read in conjunction with our children’s services procedures

**http://www.proceduresonline.com/darlington/cs/**

**Interim Court Care Plans**

All interim Court Care Plans must be approved and signed by a Service Manager.

The signature sheet for the interim Care Plan must now reflect the Social Worker, the Team Manager and the Service Manager.

**No interim Care Plan will be lodged with Court unless a Service Manager (or Head of Service) signature has been provided.**

**Final Court Care Plans**

All Final Court Care Plans must be approved and signed by a Head of Service, once this has been signed, it must be passed to the IRO.

All Final Court Care Plans must reflect the IRO’s view.

The signature sheet for the final Care Plan must now reflect the Social Worker, Team Manager, Service Manager, Head of Service and IRO.

If the IRO is in **agreement with the plan**, they must sign.  If they are not in agreement with the plan their name must still be on the signature sheet but left unsigned – their views must be reflected in the Care Plan.

**No final Care Plan will be lodged with Court unless a Head of Service signature has been provided.**

This means that plans will need to be in place to ensure Care Plans are prepared in a timely fashion.