

Bradford Children's Services

Child Protection and Interim Supervision Order Practice Guide

On some occasions, children will be subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP) as well as being subject to an Interim Supervision Order (ISO). In these circumstances, it is important that clear decisions are made about how the CP plan and legal process are managed to ensure the best outcome for the child.

This guide provides clarity regarding the roles and responsibility for decision making and when the CP plan should end.

The process

When an Interim Supervision Order is granted, the social worker should ensure the Child Protection Coordinator (CPC) is made aware of this and of the Court timetable. It is best practice for there to be a 3-way discussion with social worker, their team manager and the CPC.

There will need to be consideration of the following issues during this discussion:

- Does the next CP review need to be moved to accommodate the Court timetable and make decision making in that meeting more effective?
- Does the making of the ISO provide safeguarding and/or oversight from the Court/a Children's Guardian which now alleviates the need for the CP plan to remain in place? If it is agreed this is the case, a case note should be added to the child's file to that effect. A single assessment would need to be prepared for the next review setting out how the identified risks which led to CP planning could now be addressed under a Child In Need (CIN) plan with the oversight of the Court instead. The assessment can then be considered in the usual way at the next Child Protection review conference.
- If, during the 3-way discussion, it is agreed that the making of the ISO does not provide adequate safeguards to step down from CP planning and the two processes need to run concurrently, then this should be case noted on the child's file and in the minutes from the next CP review.
- There should be a follow up discussion between the social worker and CPC at the midway stage before the next review to clarify if the dual process of CP planning and ISO needs to continue. This would be reviewed at every subsequent CP review/midway stage until a final decision is made in Court.

Ultimately, the final decision around the child's circumstances will be made in Court. It is therefore good practice for the CPC and Children's Guardian to keep in touch and for the Children's Guardian to be invited to CP reviews after the ISO is obtained.

If, during the life of the ISO, there is disagreement about whether or not a CP plan should remain in place, there should be a discussion between the Social Worker's Team Manager and the CPC Team Manager in the first instance. Appropriate escalation procedures should be followed if agreement cannot be reached using the challenge and resolution process.