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| In the Family Court sitting at Bristol |
| In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

**Local Authority
Social Work Initial Evidence
Template (SWET)**

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| **for use in urgent hearings only** |

**Version: July 2021**

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| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current legal status** |
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| **Local Authority and Social Worker details** |
| Court case number |  |
| Filed by [local authority] | North Somerset Council |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s Social Work England registration number |  |
| I have been the allocated social worker for [insert name(s)] since [date(s)] |  |

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**The facts in this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.**

Signed:

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Date of completion:

1. **Order being sought from the courts and a summary of the reasons why?**

*Welfare Checklist consideration (Section 1(3):*

*(g) The range of powers available to the court under this Act in the proceedings in question*

*(c) The likely effect on him/her/them of any change in his/her/their circumstances*

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| **Emergency Protection Order** |  |
| **Interim Care Order** |  |
| **Other Orders Sought** |  |

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| **Reasons for an application for interim order(s):**  |
| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:**** *State the order being sought from the courts.*
* *Explain why the local authority believes the threshold for immediate separation has been met by outlining why action is required now e.g. police protection, possible non-accidental injury, ongoing or serious incident of domestic abuse, international element or capacity to consent to Section 20 (this list is non-exhaustive).*
* *Detail presenting features and why the risks to the child/ren have moved from significant to immediate harm, plus the evidence of impact or the likelihood of impact.*
* *If the Public Law Outline (PLO) process has not been used explain why not. Please refer to the social work chronology in Appendix 1, as necessary.*
* *Please also state where the child is now and the likely effect on them of any change of circumstances.*
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1. **The impact of harm on the child/ren (including an initial analysis of risk and protective factors)**

*Welfare Checklist consideration (Section 1(3)):*

*(a) The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of his/her/their age and understanding)*

*(b) His/her/their physical, emotional and educational needs*

*(d) His/her/their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant*

*(e) Any harm which he/she/they has/have suffered or is/are at risk of suffering*

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| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:****Have regard to the welfare checklist when completing this section, namely the child’s age and needs, their wishes and feelings and the harm they have (or are at risk of) suffered.*  |
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1. **Initial analysis of the evidence of parents, wider family and friend’s capabilities to meet the needs of the child/ren**

*Welfare Checklist consideration (Section 1(3)):*

 *(f) How capable each of his/her/their parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her/their needs*

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| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:**** *Reference any work undertaken with the parents, child/ren and the wider family.*
* *Note any assessments that have been completed or that are in progress and any relevant interventions along with the effectiveness of this activity.*
* *Ensure rationale for maintaining contact / family time with anyone mentioned here is included.*
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1. **Realistic placement option(s)**

***If this application is for an urgent removal of an unborn baby, please complete the separate balance sheet for unborn babies. If the unborn baby is the only subject of these proceedings then remove boxes 4.1 and 4.2 and keep the following sentence:***

I respectfully refer the Court to the separate balance sheet, which I have prepared in respect of Unborn \*\*\*\*\* taking into account the principles in *Re C (A Child) [2019] EWCA Civ 1998*.

***If there are additional children or there these proceedings do not concern an unborn baby, delete the above text and proceed with completing the boxes below.***

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| **4.1. Discounted placement options for the child/ren** |
| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:*** *List and include a brief summary of any placements discounted and the reasons why.* |

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| **4.2 The preferred and proposed placement option for the child/ren** |
| ***Guidance: Legal will delete this guidance note:****Include a brief analysis of the impact on the child of the preferred placement option and how parents and carers will be supported after the move.* |
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**5. The range of views of other parties**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*This section has an important opinion-sharing purpose. Set out and analyse the individual’s views about what should happen for the child/children in the future. Stick to the known facts and where possible, give an indication of whether the facts of the case are accepted or contested.*

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| **5.1 Views of the child/ren** |
| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:****In addition to the child/ren’s views, use this space to provide an initial indication of the appropriate level of the child/ren’s involvement in the court case, with reasons.* |
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| **5.2 Mother’s views (include full name and date of birth)** |
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| **5.3 Father’s views (include full name and date of birth)** |
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| **5.4 Views of wider family members (include full name and date of birth)** |
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**6. The family time / contact plan**

The family time / contact plan should seek to involve siblings and others with whom the child has a significant relationship. It must be kept under review as circumstances change.

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| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:****Detail initial arrangements for each child including:* * *Who contact is with plus their relationship to the child/ren.*
* *The proposed frequency and duration.*
* *Whether support or supervision is required to facilitate family time activities.*
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**7. Statement of procedural fairness**

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| ***Legal will delete this guidance note:**** *Confirm here that the local authority’s concerns and the contents of this statement have been communicated to the child/ren, mother, father, and significant others, and how this has been communicated.*
* *State whether these concerns have been understood and how the contents of this statement have been shared with them.*
* *If not, please be explicit about attempts to engage and detail here any help that has been provided, or will be provided, in order to support participation e.g. is an advocate or interpreter required?*
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**[All guidance text to be deleted before submitting to the court]**

**APPENDIX 1: The social work chronology (duration up to 6 months)**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

* *Recognising the gravity of the situation requiring an urgent application to the court, please list the most significant events* ***which can be evidenced*** *here.*
* *Focus on the last* ***three to six months,*** *time permitting.*
* *Make reference to any significant events in the last two years or beyond felt to be of relevance here.*

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| **Date** | **Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child/ren’s welfare** | **Impact on the child/ren** |
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**APPENDIX 2: The welfare checklist in full for reference**

**NOT TO BE COMPLETED BELOW. Reference is given to the relevant section of the SWEIT.**

The full Children Act checklist, to be used in care and supervision proceedings is found at section 1(3) (a) – (g) and requires the court to have regard to the following matters:

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| a) | The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of their age and understanding);***To be addressed at Section 2 of the statement*** |
| b) | Their physical, emotional and educational needs;***To be addressed at Section 2 of the statement*** |
| c) | The likely effect on them of any change in his/her/their circumstances;***To be addressed at Section 1 of the statement*** |
| d) | Their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant;***To be addressed at Section 2 of the statement*** |
| e) | Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering;***To be addressed at Section 2 of the statement*** |
| f) | How capable each of their parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her/their needs;***To be addressed at Section 3 of the statement*** |
| g) | The range of powers available to the court under this Act (Children Act 1989) in the proceedings in question.***To be addressed at Section 1 of the statement*** |