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**Children’s Social Care**

**Quality Assurance and Challenge for Child Protection**

**Version 3**

**March 2022**

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Document Control

Change Record

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| **Date** | **Author** | **Version** | **Change Description** | **Approved/ Quality checked by & date** | **Target Audience/ Circulation** | **Document Review Date** |
| March 2022 | Sarah Edwards | 1 | Created | Review and Inspection Service Manager | IROs/Children’s Services staff | March 2024 |

Impact Assessment Record

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Type of Assessment conducted**  **(e.g. environmental, diversity and equalities. Human Rights Act 1998, Crime & Disorder Act 1998& Children’s Act 2004)** | **Stage/Level completed (where applicable)** | **Summary of Action Taken/ Decision Made** | **Completed by** | **Impact Assessment Review Date** |
| March 2022 | Impact assessment not required. Document content date does not impact directly on gender, race, disabled people, sexual orientation, age, faith groups. | Initial Screening | No action required | Nikky Henry | Review not required unless significant change to type of document content |

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| Document Retention Period | Destroy 5 years after administrative use has concluded |

**1.1 Child Protection Challenge process**

**2.1 Internal Challenge**

2.2 The Child Protection Conference chairs will prepare for conferences by reading all reports provided by agencies and exploring the child's file on the electronic LCS record. They may contact the Social Worker or Team manager ahead of the conference to clarify any issues or concerns identified within their preparatory work. As part of this process, and within the Child Protection Conference, Conference Chair’s may identify issues that require the attention of the Social Worker, The Social Worker’s Team Manager or Senior Manager’s within Children’s Services.

2.3 The Conference Chair will seek to raise any internal concerns with the Social Worker / Team Manager **immediately**. The Social Worker / Team Manager are to respond to the Conference Chair **within one day** upon receipt of the challenge raised. The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

2.4 Should the Conference Chair not be satisfied within the response from Social Worker / Team Manager, then they will escalate to the Social Worker’s Service Manager. Upon receipt of the information from the conference chair, Social Worker’s Service Manager is to consider the information shared and respond **within 2 days**. The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

2.5 Should the Conference Chair remain unsatisfied with the response from the Social Worker’s Service Manager, then they are to escalate this to the Assistant Director of Children’s Services. The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

2.6 It is anticipated that any issues raised through the above route, will be resolved **within five working days.**

2.7 Should the Conference Chair have significant immediate safeguarding concerns, they may immediately escalate to the Social Worker’s Service Manager or Assistant Director of Children’s Services, as they see fit. The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

2.8 The QA tool is to be stored on LCS under documents and emailed to the IRO Challenge email address.

**3.0 External / Partner Agency Challenge**

3.1 The Child Protection Conference chairs will prepare for conferences by reading all reports provided by agencies and exploring the child's file on the electronic LCS record. They may contact a practitioner to clarify any issues or concerns raised from this preparatory work; consequently the challenge and support process may start before the Child Protection Conference takes place. It is also therefore crucial that practitioners/case workers contact the designated chair to discuss any concerns or practice difficulties before the conference. This will allow for any problems or difficulties to be resolved before the conference if possible. During the conference, chairs will also seek clarification and challenge any emerging shortfalls in practice. This will be done in a constructive manner to drive standards and improve outcomes for children and young people.

3.2 As part of this challenge process, chairs may identify issues that require the attention of the practitioner's line manager.

3.3 The Conference Chair will raise any concerns initially with the individual practitioner **immediately.** There is an expectation that the practitioner will respond to the Conference Chair **within one day.** The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

3.4 Should the Conference Chair not be satisfied with the response from the individual practitioner, they are to notify the IRO Team Manager immediately who will then raise the matter with the practitioner’s line manager, requesting a response **within** **two days.** The Conference Chair will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

3.5 Should the IRO Team Manager not be satisfied within the response from the practitioner’s line manager, they will escalate to the STSCP representative for that service (eg Health) **within one day.** The IRO Team Manager will insert a case note on LCS under the Informal Challenge tab within case notes.

3.6 It is anticipated that any issues raised through the above route, will be resolved **within five working days.**

3.7 The Conference Chair may note concerning patterns and themes emerging from professionals within their role as Conference Chair (eg timeliness of reports shared ahead of conference, poor attendance of partner agencies at Conferences). The Conference Chair is to notify the IRO Team Manager of any such concerns, so that these can be addressed accordingly.

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW UNIT**

**REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**IRO QA TOOL ICPC / RCPC**

DATE : DATE OF ICPC / RCPC meeting:

CONFERENCE CHAIR:

SOCIAL WORKER AND TEAM:

PROTOCOL ID(s):

CHILD’S AGE:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **YES** | **NO** | **Comment** |
| Are the Strategy Meeting minutes on LCS? |  |  |  |
| Is the pre meeting report completed and shared with the Conference Chair?  (24 hours for ICPC and 5 working days for RCPC) |  |  |  |
| Is the pre meeting report completed and shared with parents / carers and the child (where appropriate)? |  |  |  |
| Have all parents / carers with Parental Responsibility been informed of the conference? |  |  |  |
| Is there a need for a split conference? Was the Chair made aware of the need for a split conference in advance of the meeting? |  |  |  |
| Was the child (aged 8+) invited to conference? |  |  |  |
| Has the voice of the child been captured and considered within the and ICPC / RCPC report? |  |  |  |
| For RCPC, have core groups been held regularly?  Have they been well represented by family members / carers and professionals?  Has progress been made within the Child Protection plan?  If not has a legal meeting been considered? |  |  |  |
| Has the child been visited within statutory timescales? |  |  |  |
| Are there any other concerns noted by the Conference Chair? |  |  |  |