

# Management Action Note 005

## The importance of child protection planning during the pre-proceedings period.

### Pre-proceedings

The Public Law Outline (PLO) is the final stage before care proceedings are issued and the pre-proceedings stage is entered into when we have serious concerns in respect of the safety and welfare of a child. The concerns will be so serious that unless the family, with support from children's services and possibly other services, are able to make changes so that the concerns are reduced, we would consider applying to the Court for possible removal of the child(ren).

It follows therefore that in each instance where we are the stage of pre-proceedings the child(ren) would also be the subject of a child protection plan.

### Ending child protection plans whilst a family is in the pre-proceedings stage.

Child protection plans **cannot be ended whilst a family remains in the pre-proceedings stage** as the outcome of the pre-proceedings process cannot be assumed. The pre-proceedings stage must be concluded before a decision to de-plan is made, and where proceedings are issued, the child should remain the subject of a child protection plan until proceedings are concluded and risk is considered to be sufficiently reduced.

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