



Pre-Birth Team

Tel:
Fax:

Initial Care Plan

Details of Child:

Family Name	Simpson	Given Names	Bart
Actual DOB		Gender	
Ethnicity		Primary Language	
Primary Address		Telephone	
		Mobile	
		Case Number	
Secondary Address		Current Address	
Case No:			
In the Family Court at:			
First Respondent			
Second Respondent			
Third Respondent			
Name of Independent Reviewing Officer			

Initial Care Plan

Work was completed in 2022 with Judge Hudson and the North courts to simplify the initial care plans we submit to court. This avoids a lot of duplication and unnecessary information at the start of the court care planning process. The court is primarily concerned at this initial stage with a number of key issues and this shortened version allows the SW to focus on these important things such as the order proposed, what family time will look like, the child's education arrangements and what services will be provided to the family to help them to make the changes needed. Whilst the initial care plan is shorter, it is important to provide as much detail as possible regarding these key issues and to answer the sections with an appropriate level of detail.

1. Proposed Order	Please set out the order that you are asking for here, but also provide some context around this. What is the rationale for asking for this order, what is it that you hope to achieve by being given this? As an example, if you are seeking an ICO for the child to enable us to keep them with grandparents as there are substantial risks around domestic abuse and it would be unsafe for them to return home to their mother's care then please say this. It is helpful to provide a little bit of background and context for the court, although you do not need to go into great detail as the full details are in the SWET.
2. Where and with whom the child is to live	This should be straightforward. Again, if there is any further background context needed please provide it, for example, will there be any regulation 24 connected carers' assessment ongoing if the children are placed within a family placement or anything like that?

3. The proposed arrangements for family time	<p>This is a key section as it sets out the Local Authority's proposals regarding family time between the child, their parent(s) and any siblings if in separate placements. This section can also include proposals regarding contact between the children and significant extended family members, where deemed appropriate.</p> <p>This should also include a short analysis of their family time needs, not solely a statement about what is envisaged or to be provided. It needs to be supported with brief information about the child's relationship with the individual concerned and why this means that level of contact is needed. The reasoning needs to be included so all parties can understand the social worker's decision making.</p>
4. Arrangements for school/nursery	<p>The level of detail here will be dependent on the child's age and individualised needs within school / nursery etc. Will there be any changes to their provision or assistance needed with transport, depending on any proposed placement moves?</p>
5. The services to be provided to the child/family	<p>Here, it is important to set out what work and interventions will be provided to both the child and the family in order to address any of the child's need and to assist the family to make the necessary changes to reduce risk.</p> <p>In terms of the child's needs this section should be different for each individual child in question and not a generic statement. The child will, by definition, have suffered harm or be at risk of suffering harm and is the subject of care proceedings therefore it is reasonable to assume that they will have additional needs, for example for emotional support, attachment etc, based on their experiences in the care of their parents. If they have been brought into our care they will also be entitled to other services as a looked after child – for example they will have a looked after medical and a PEP. Consider any therapeutic need or consultation needed with Full Circle etc.</p> <p>In respect of the parents what work are we doing and what other agencies are working with them to help them? This could be work via substance or alcohol recovery services, domestic abuse support, housing issues, probation, parenting courses and interventions etc.</p>

Trajectory for Assessments & Key Decision Making Points

This section is really important as it lets the court know at a glance what work and interventions have been completed pre-proceedings and what key decisions have been made. The Public Law Working Group recommendations highlighted the importance of pre-proceedings in managing risk in the community, stating that this presents an opportunity to work closely with families to identify the worries together and coproduce a plan that support changes. Additionally, the report highlighted that legal threshold being met does not always mean it is right, or proportionate to instigate care proceedings and that these should be issued as a last resort. Therefore this section is important in evidencing the work completed in the pre-proceedings process.

This section below is in 2 parts, the first part should set out any assessments we have completed, any legal planning meetings that have been held or other key decision making /meetings including PLO meetings and reviews.

The second section is to highlight what assessments and key decision making dates there will be in the proceedings going forward. Wherever possible, we should be proactively considering the court timetable and going to court prepared by providing the suggested dates that we intend to file assessments, dates of panels etc. We should we linking in with our colleagues in other parts of the service to obtain dates for filing Regulation 24 connected care assessments, SGO assessments, obtaining the panel dates for these, CRP filing dates, ADM panel and filing dates, parenting assessment filing dates, even final evidence where we can. In some situations this might be difficult, for example if we are intending to seek expert assessments and relying on the identification of experts and their availability.

When considering the above social workers should be mindful of the court's regional Assessment Framework document which sets out the court's expectations around timescales for assessments. In recent cases we have also seen some judges dictate quite tight timescales for connected carers assessments which are set 16 weeks from the time that the child or young person first became looked after. The court is not concerned with when we made a referral to our Connected Carers' team or when they allocated a case for assessment, they are simply focused on the needs of the child and to timetable without undue delay.

Assessment/Key Dates Pre Application

Date	Person Responsible	Details

Assessment/Key Decision Making Dates Post Application

Date	Person Responsible	Details

Signatures

Name of Social Worker completing assessment			
Signature:		Date:	
Name of Manager			
Signature:		Date:	