



Pre-Birth Team

Tel:
Fax:

Final Care Plan

Details of Child:

Family Name	Simpson	Given Names	Bart
Actual DOB		Gender	
Ethnicity		Primary Language	
Primary Address		Telephone (Mobile Phone)	
		Mobile	
		Case Number	
Secondary Address		Current Address	

Court Case Number:	
Court:	
Type of Hearing:	
Local Authority:	
Number of Plan:	
Date of Plan:	

General information

The Care Plan presented by the local authority must be an authorised plan about the child or young person’s needs, the best way of responding to those needs, and the detailed arrangements setting out how the local authority will provide services to promote and protect the child’s welfare post proceedings.

Social Workers should make sure that the information they include **actually answers** the question under each heading.

Confusion and mistrust can inadvertently be generated where care plans explain what is proposed, but give insufficient detail as to why a particular placement or course of action has been chosen. Attention to this aspect of the care plan will save time, often in court itself, explaining the basis on which the local authority has made certain key decisions, including those around contact.

The care plan should not inappropriately duplicate detailed information contained within the SWET or within assessments, such as the child’s history and evidential aspects of the proceedings.

Section 1: Overall Aim

<p>1.1 Aim of the plan and summary of timetable.</p>	<p>A lot of times, we see SWs write something along the lines of the following, which should always be avoided.....</p> <p>“The aim of this care plan is to address the needs of Bart Simpson and to ensure that the appropriate provisions are identified to meet his needs and safeguard him from significant harm.</p> <p>Bart needs to live in an environment that is safe, clean, secure and stable with a carer who can afford him with the appropriate nurturing to enable him to reach his full physical, intellectual and emotional potential”.</p> <p>When broken down, isn't this something that every child should experience? This reads as quite jargon laden and is not very individualised. The court just needs to know here what the local authority's desired outcome is. Therefore, please provide a brief update ie state how the purpose of the plan is to set out the LA's final position in relation to the child. As part of this, set out where the child has been living, what assessments have been completed, the outcome of these, what you are asking for in terms of the order and what plan this will support. If this is also different from the interim plan, then this also needs to be reflected alongside the rationale for the change – ie rehab back home etc...</p> <p>This section also about a summary of the timetable so it is helpful to just set out when any other court hearings, such as the IRH and final hearing are.</p> <p>An example for this section would be....</p> <p>“Bart Simpson has been a child in the care of Durham County Council since September 2021 and subject to an Interim Care Order following an initial Case Management Hearing in November 2021. This care plan is intended to inform the Court and relevant parties of the Local Authority's proposed long term care plan for Bart.</p> <p>A final hearing is arranged for 5 days from 13 June 2022. This will include a fact finding component to determine how Bart sustained injuries, however the assessments completed within proceedings do not support placement of Bart in the care of either of his parents. A positive assessment has been completed of Bart's current carers and so it is proposed that he remains in their care. The Local Authority proposes that this placement is underpinned by a Special Guardianship Order”.</p>
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Section 2: Child's Needs including Contact

<p>2.1 The child's identified needs, including needs arising from race, culture, religion or language, special education, health or disability</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>2.2 The child's wishes and feelings</p>	<p>This and the next section both relate to the child's wishes and feelings. It is vital that the child's voice is represented even if they are unable to understand their circumstances or express their wishes verbally due to their age or developmental stage. If the child is unable to share their wishes and feelings verbally you must give consideration to how they present in their current placement (observations of their behaviours), whether they have any established relationship with family members whom we are proposing the children may be placed, and what it would be reasonable to assume they would want given perhaps their mother and/or father have been their main carers since birth for example. Give consideration to the child's experiences</p>

	<p>such as whether they have been neglected or exposed to domestic abuse as it would be reasonable to assume they would not wish to experience this abuse in the future. In Section 2.3 it is important to explain why we would or would not support the child's wishes and feelings. For example if the child was able to say they wanted to go home and we could not support this we would need to say why in this section (i.e. the child would be at risk of domestic abuse/poor parenting etc and what impact this will have on the child's safety/physical and emotional development);</p>
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<p>2.3 The reasons for supporting this or explanations of why wishes/views have not been given absolute precedence</p>	<p>It is important to explain here why we would or would not support the child's wishes and feelings. For example, if the child was able to say they wanted to go home and we could not support this we would need to say why in this section (i.e. the child would be at risk of domestic abuse/poor parenting etc and what impact this will have on the child's safety/physical and emotional development). You do not need to go into massive detail about this here, as you likely have an assessment and the final statement which contains all the detailed analysis.</p>
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<p>2.4 Summary of how those needs might be met</p>	<p>This relates to how the child's identified needs would be met in the proposed placement under the proposed order. If the care plan is a final care plan for adoption, you would need to also consider how the child's needs would be met within their foster placement prior to them moving into their adoptive placement. You therefore need to consider who would be responsible for meeting those needs for the entirety of the child's life, not just now.</p>
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<p>2.5 Arrangements for, and purpose of, contact in meeting the child's needs (specifying contact relationships e.g. parent, step-parent, other family member, former carer, friend, sibling, including those looked after who may have a separate placement); any proposals to restrict or terminate contact.</p>	<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. As an example, social workers often set out that indirect letterbox contact will only be offered post adoption but do not explain the rationale for this. It may be that an older sibling is remaining in foster care and having regular contact with their birth mother, who does not accept the worries and concerns and is opposed to the plan of adoption, therefore there is a real concern that if direct sibling contact was taking place, the older sibling could tell the mother where the child is placed for adoption, thus putting this placement at risk, through mum finding out, seeking out the child and undermining the placement. The reasoning needs to be included so all parties can understand the social worker's decision making.</p>
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<p>Section 3: Views of Others</p>	
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<p>3.1 The extent to which the wishes and views of the child's parents and anyone else with a sufficient interest in the child (including representatives of other agencies, current and former carers) have been obtained and acted upon, and</p>	<p>It is important every effort is made to gather the view of parents and significant family members. The following section is important to briefly summarise (based on assessments) why we cannot support these people's views where the risks are too high to manage. The key here is summary, not a detailed analysis as this is already in your assessment and again summarised in the social worker statement.</p>
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<p>3.2 The reasons for supporting them or explanations of why wishes/ views have been given absolute precedence.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
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Section 4: Placement Details and Timetable

4.1 Proposed placement - type and detail	Section 4 relates to the proposed placement for each individual child. What is the proposed placement and what order is being applied for?
4.2 Time that is likely to elapse before proposed placement is made;	It may be that the child is already in the proposed long term placement. However, if they are likely to need to move to a matched long term placement, either via way of foster care or adoption, the social worker needs to set out how long this is likely to take and give the parties an understanding as to the process involved. You may not be able to give definitive timescales but an approximation. For example if your proposed plan is adoption and the child is a 4 month old baby with no special needs, you may already know that there are a number of in-house adopters who could meet his needs who are available and that the process would be managed quite quickly. It would be appropriate to therefore make the court aware of this.
4.3 Likely duration of placement;	This is pretty straightforward and self explanatory.
4.4 Arrangements for health care (including consent to examination and treatment);	The next few sections should set out what the arrangements are for the child's needs which have been identified earlier in the care plan. In terms of health, who will be responsible for meeting each child's health needs and who will provide consent for any treatment? Which professionals will continue to oversee the child in relation to their health needs.? The amount of detail required here will very much depend on the individualised health needs of the child.
4.5 Arrangements for education (including any pre-school day care/activity);	As above, the level of detail here will again 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?
4.6 Arrangements for reunification (often known as 'rehabilitation');	This is pretty self explanatory, it may be that it is not believed a placement in parents' care can be managed safely and so no arrangements have been made. If rehabilitation is being proposed it is likely that the social worker will need to cross refer to a supporting document such as the trajectory and placement with parents' regulations document.
4.7 Other services to be provided to the child;	<p>What support will be provided to each individual child at this point? If it is a final care plan for adoption, there will be a change of social worker as a worker from Sara Peterson's team will be involved in placement finding and supporting the transition into the adoptive placement. There may also be things like life story work or adoption preparation work to consider.</p> <p>Dependent on the proposed plan there may be other ongoing work being completed with the child, such as involvement from CAMHS, children's domestic abuse work, etc.</p>
4.8 Other services to be provided to parents and other family members;	What support will be offered to each parent once care proceedings have concluded? Post proceedings support is key to effect any changes needed and prevent repeat proceedings. What interventions were recommended by any experts within proceedings? What/who will support parents to access this consistently? What other services would be needed? Is any financial support being offered to parents to attend contact?
4.9 Details of proposed support services in placement for the carers;	This section asks what support will be offered to the carers. Do the children have additional needs which the carers would need support with managing? Consider both foster carers and adoptive carers if the care plan is for adoption.

	When the placement is with a connected person who is being proposed as a special guardian there will be an SGO support plan filed alongside the other documentation. In this circumstance it would be helpful to refer to this here.
4.10 Specific details of the parents' role in day to day arrangements.	This is pretty self explanatory and will be dependent on whether the plan is one of rehabilitation, long term fostering with a foster carer or connected carer, or a plan of adoption. The social worker needs to set out here what level of input the parent(s) will have post proceedings.
Section 5: Management and Support by the Local Authority	
5.1 Who is to be responsible for implementing the overall plan;	Section 5 should be self-explanatory. Do not forget to consider if there will be a change in social worker following the Final Order being made. Insert dates of any future CIC or Health Reviews for each child. Be sure to include any changes due to a transfer of team, for example if the child or young person will be moving over to the children in care service because of a plan of long term fostering. We need to be clear and transparent here and ensure that if this is the case the family are already aware of this and that discussions have already taken place with them, it's not right for a parent to find out in this document that there's going to be a change of worker.
5.2 Who is to be responsible for implementing specific tasks within the plan;	As above
5.3 Dates of review;	As above. If you have the date for the next after review for example, please include it – don't just fall back on jargon, this will be done within statutory timescales etc.
5.4 Contingency plan if placement breaks down or if preferred placement is not available;	What is our contingency plan? What would happen if our plan breaks down? Are there any family members positively assessed who would be able to care for the child if their placement broke down? If not what are the options available? This is a very important section in the plan, as depending on what the proposed care plan is, should we need to action our contingency, as long as we are very explicit about what this will look like, we can potentially avoid a return to court. The problem is, if we are not clear what this will look like, or we action something different, then we are deviating away from a court approved plan so this could mean a return to court for a judge's oversight. Sometimes however, we may not be able to avoid this, due to the need to vary an order. Please make sure this is as specific as possible and names any individuals assessed as alternatives etc.
5.5 Arrangements for input by parents, the child and others into the ongoing decision making process;	This needs to consider what input parents will have in the future regarding decision making. Dependent on the plan proposed this may be limited, or time limited in the case of adoption, until an adoptive placement is identified.
5.6 Arrangements for notifying the responsible authority of disagreements about the implementation of the Care Plan or making representation or complaints.	This is usually written in a similar way to the following..... " The Local Authority has a well-established process for dealing with disagreements and representations. Such matters are dealt with through the Departments Complaints, Representations and Compliments Procedure" The social worker just needs to make clear that we have a complaints procedure and that parents are aware how to use it.

NB All care plans should have final oversight of a service manager and once they have agreed the final version then their signature should be added to the printed out PDF version. There is a way to add an electronic signature to a PDF.