

BCP

Edge of Care Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose

Children and young people have an inherent right to be brought up by their parents and within their families, unless there is clear evidence that by doing so would not be in their best interests. The decision to bring a child or/young person into care should only be taken when the assessment clearly evidences this necessity.

The Edge of Care Panel considers requests for intensive support to prevent children from coming into care, or to support a reunification from care. The Panel also considers plans for unborn babies for whom without intensive support would be likely to be the subject of care proceedings at birth.

When children do need to come into care, the Edge of Care Panel will ensure that children and young people who are presented to the panel have received the appropriate level of intervention and support before a decision is made that they enter the care of BCP, including that a Family Network Meeting has been held.

The Edge of Care Panel will ensure that all voluntary admissions into care are appropriate, timely and that an early return to family or other options for permanence are facilitated and actioned as soon as possible.

The Panel will:

- Manage the threshold for access to the looked after system under section 20 of the CA1989
- Ensure that resources and services are appropriately identified, allocated and co-ordinated to prevent a child or young person needing to become looked after, and divert unborn babies away from being the subject of Public Law proceedings.
- The Edge of care Panel will also consider services, plans and resources needed to return children from care.
- The Edge of Care Panel will provide robust challenge and will be accountable to the Service Director for Safeguarding and Early Help.
- All presentations to the Panel will have operational Service Manager agreement prior to presentation at the panel.
- The Edge of Care Panel will not consider children and young people for whom the pre-proceedings process or care proceedings may be needed. These decisions are made at the Legal Gateway Meeting, chaired by the Service Director Corporate Parenting.

Membership

The Edge of Care Panel will have the following representatives:

Core membership:

- Chairperson – Service Manager, Assessment, Complex Safeguarding and Edge of Care
- Deputy Chairperson - Edge of Care Team Manager
- Service Manager - YOS
- Service Manager - Early Help

- Team Manager - Early Help
- SEN Service Manager - Education and attendance
- Designated Nurse
- CAMH's representative
- Access to resources team
- Panel Administrator

The role of panel members:

- To provide multi-agency contribution to the discussion regarding unborn babies, children and young people presented to the panel.
- To consider the provision of any resources and services that they have provided or could provide from within their own service areas.
- Decide if the child or young person's best interests are met by being accommodated by the local authority.
- The agenda should be provided to panel members two working days prior to the date of panel to allow members the opportunity to review their involvement/knowledge of the unborn baby, child, or young person.

Cases to be considered at the edge of care panel

The Edge of Care panel will consider the following presentations:

- All requests for admission into care that have not been presented at the Legal Gateway Meeting
- All emergency admissions into voluntary care (section 20), retrospective presentation must be made to the panel
- Children and young people that have been remanded to care
- All requests for intensive support to prevent a child from coming into care
- All requests for intensive support for a child to be reunified from care
- Requests for unborn babies where without the provision of intensive support, care proceedings are likely to be issued at birth

Presentation to the Edge of Care Panel

Requests will be presented to the panel by the Social Worker and Team Manager. Operational Service Managers should attend the case presentation wherever possible.

The referral and accompanying documents will be sent to the panel administrator by 1.00 pm on the Friday before the following Wednesday's Panel.

In all instances a Family Network Meeting will have been convened by the Social Worker before the Panel will consider the request.

The Form must be signed by the Team Manager and the Service Manager.

The following documents should be submitted along with the panel form:

- Full Impact Chronology
- Genogram
- Latest Child and Family Assessment

- Other documents that may be relevant and inform decision making process should be included as appropriate.

Once the documentation is received, the Social Worker and their Team Manager will be provided with a time slot to attend panel by the panel administrator.

Frequency

The Edge of Care Panel is a weekly panel (Wednesday 9 am – 12pm) and it is expected that the core panel members attend on a weekly basis. If this is not possible, apologies should be sent to the panel administrator and a substitute should be sent from the designated service area.

Agenda/Minutes

All decisions will be made on the day of Panel, and it is the responsibility of the allocated social worker to inform the family and child or young person of the decisions from the panel. The panel will follow a set agenda and the minutes will be taken at all panels by the Panel Administrator. The minutes are to be provided to the Chair within five working days of the panel and are uploaded to the child's Mosaic record. The actions from the meeting must be available within two working days of the panel and are recorded on case notes within the child's Mosaic record.