

## Stable Care Panel: A Multi-Agency Oversight Panel for Stable Care (unregistered care and at risk of care breakdown)

### Terms of Reference

#### Objective:

The Multi-Agency Oversight Panel for Stable Care (Stable Care Panel) is established to review and ensure the implementation of action plans for children in unregistered care settings and those at risk of care breakdown. The Panel will ensure effective multi-agency collaboration and shared ownership of high quality planning for children and young people. The primary focus is on safeguarding the wellbeing and achieving stable, permanent care for the children residing in these settings.

#### Composition:

The Stable Care Panel shall consist of representatives from relevant agencies, including but not limited to CAHMS, Children's social care (Heads of Service), Children's Placements, Education, (Virtual School and SEND), health (designated nurse for children in care), finance.

The panel will be chaired by the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care or their delegated representative.

#### Meetings:

The panel will convene weekly or as needed, to review and assess the status of children in unregistered care settings and at risk of care breakdown.

#### Responsibilities:

The panel will consider the following for each child or young person in an unregistered care arrangement;

- a. Compliance with minimum standards: Evaluate the extent to which individual unregistered care settings adhere to established procedures, regulations, and standards.
- b. Incident Assessment: Examine any notable incidents within unregistered care settings and recommend appropriate actions to address them.
- c. Accommodation: Ensure that children in these settings have safe, suitable, and appropriate living conditions.
- d. Care Quality: Assess the quality of care provided to children.
- e. Education: Review the educational provisions for children, ensuring access to quality education and necessary support.



f. Wellbeing: Monitor and safeguard the overall wellbeing of children, addressing any concerns related to mental, emotional, or physical health.

g. Child's voice: Ensure that the child's voice and preferences are heard and taken into account.

g. Exit Plans: Scrutinise and oversee exit plans for children to ensure a smooth transition to safe and appropriate alternative care or family reunification when necessary.

For children and young people at risk of care breakdown, the panel will accept requests for review from Heads of Service and partner agencies to consider;

h. Stability of Current Placement: Establish the stability and suitability of the child's current placement, including the quality of care, relationships with caregivers, and the overall living environment.

i. Long-Term Planning: Consider the long-term permanence plan and whether this should be varied.

j. Support Services: Determine if the child and caregivers are receiving the necessary support services.

k. Emergency response and contingency planning. Ensure a clear plan for responding to crisis situations, including immediate actions to ensure the child's safety and well-being.

### **Reporting:**

The work of the Panel will contribute to weekly and monthly update reports to regulators, the DCS, CEX and relevant elected members.

### **Authority:**

The panel is empowered to make recommendations to relevant authorities and agencies for immediate corrective actions or legal interventions, if required, to protect the welfare of children in unregistered care settings.

### **Confidentiality:**

All discussions and information shared within the Panel will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, in accordance with applicable data protection laws and regulations.

### **Review of Terms:**

These terms of reference shall be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure their continued effectiveness in safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of children in unregistered care settings.

Approved by [Insert relevant authority or organisation name] on [Insert date].