

Child Protection and Children in Care Dual Status

Practice Guidance

Sometimes due to circumstances some children will be subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP) as well as be a Child in Care. It is important that clear decisions are made about how the plan and arrangements for the child are managed to ensure the best outcome for the child.

This guide provides clarity regarding the roles and responsibility for decision-making and when Dual Status should end and decision making regarding managing risk.

Child Protection and Children in Care Dual Status Process

IRO Team Manager sets out, in the email about IRO allocation / dual status, which of the workflow processes below needs to be followed, which can then be subsequently discussed dependent on which option below is relevant.



Where a Child is the subject to an Interim Care Order or ICO 38[6] the CP Plan ends & Admin writes to all agencies who attended the last CP conference advising of the decision and notifying them of the details of the IRO; allowing 10 working days to challenge the decision.

If a Child is subject to Section 20, then consideration should be given to the risk posed by a parent withdrawing their consent which may mean that dual status continues. If a child is subject to Section 20 and the plan is to initiate PLO; then ahead of the Initial CIC Review the allocated CP Chair has a discussion with the IRO and the SW / SW TM regarding care planning, date for presentation at LGP and CSC's proposed recommendations to CiC review regarding the CP Plan.

If PLO has commenced, CSC to advise where that process fits into care and CP planning.

Child Protection Co-Ordinator to case-note the outcome of this discussion.





Initial Child in Care (Dual Process) Review meeting is held within 20 working days of care status starting.

Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) makes the recommendation to end the CP plan, maintain the CP plan or maintain a CP plan until there is a Legal Order in place - as agreed in the meeting with professionals and parents.





Following the initial Child in Care review (Dual Process) the IRO emails the Child Protection Co-Ordinator and SSV CPU as well as adding a casenote on the Child/Young Person's file to confirm the outcome regarding the CP status.





Admin end the CP plans on LCS and end the involvement of the Child Protection Co-Ordinator. If CP plans continue, Admin to process the continuation of the CP plans on LCS.

No CP conference to be held as the multi-agency planning and decision making will be completed at the Child in Care Review. If the CP plan continues subject to a Legal Order being made.

Once the Legal Order has been made the social worker notifies the CPC and the IRO.

The CP plan ends outside of the formal meeting when the CPC notifies admin who will end the CP plan on LCS and write to all the relevant agencies.

Subsequent Reviews for cases where CP continues alongside CIC

It would be extremely rare that a child will remain CP/CIC dual status beyond the threemonth review. If the CP plan continues beyond the three-month review, then the IRO continues to oversee dual status through the CIC review process. No CP conference is needed in light of the reviewing arrangements and planning for the child.

Date completed: April 2020 Reviewed: September 2023 Prior to each review the IRO, Child Protection Co-Ordinator and Children's Team Manager discuss whether dual status is necessary and case notes the discussion.

Following the Child in Care review (Dual Process) the **IRO** emails the **Child Protection Co-Ordinator** and **SSVCPUAdmin@bradford.gov.uk** as well as adding a case-note on the Child/Young Person's file to confirm the outcome regarding the CP status. Depending on the outcome, admin will process accordingly as highlighted above.

Resolving disagreements

Should there be any disagreement between the IRO and CPC the matter is to be referred to IRO Team Manager and CP Team Manager for resolution.

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