**West Berkshire Children & Family Service Social Care**

**Learning Audit Template**

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The criteria in this template helps capture the experiences of children and young people at each key stage of the child’s journey. Thus for some children all sections will be relevant and for others only some sections.

Audits should be completed using the guidance within which accompanies this template.

**Overview:**

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| **Date of the Audit** |  |
| **Name of Auditor and Position** |  |
| **Name of Social Worker**  |  |
| **Name of Team** |  |
| **Name of Line Manager** |  |
| **Child’s Name** |  |
| **Child’s ID.** |  |
| **Child’s DOB** |   | **Child’s Gender:** |  |
| **Status of Case/Child’s Legal Status** |  |
| **Family Composition** |  |
| **Overview of the Child and Brief History***Include:** *Relevant history leading to social care or Early Help involvement, (with reference to siblings and significant others where appropriate).*
* *Identity /culture / ethnicity.*
* *The child’s current circumstances.*
* *The current plan.*
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|  |  | **Auditor’s evaluation of the quality of the child/young person’s experience** |
| **1.** | **Is the child safe? Has risk been identified and have services provided made a positive difference?***Consider:** The identification, assessment and management of risk and, crucially, whether the child is safer as a result of the LA’s actions.
* Relevant risks including children who experience and/or are at risk of: exploitation, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse , domestic abuse, parental ill health or substance misuse.
* Are there effective and realistic safety goals and safety plans in place?
* Were the correct processes applied and did they result in the child being protected?
* Is there evidence that plans and work are keeping the child safe and reducing risk?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **2.** | **Is work child-centred?***Consider:** Is the child’s lived experience at the centre of work?
* What are the child’s views? Have they been acted upon? Does the child feel safe?
* Do ethnic, cultural and diversity factors inform interventions?
* Is there evidence of effective purposeful direct work leading to sustained change for this child and their family?
* Has the child been seen and seen alone?
* Is there evidence that the child’s views have informed plans?
* Are they and their family appropriately involved in meetings (such as children in need meetings, core groups, child protection conferences, reviews)?
* ***What evidence is there of positive outcomes for the child/YP?***
* ***Has restorative practice been used?***
* ***Has it made a difference to the child/YP?***
* ***In the last 12 months what has changed & has it improved the child/YP’s outcomes?***
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **3.** | **Are management oversight and decision making effective?***Consider:** Is there evidence of timely management action resulting in improved outcomes for this child?
* Is management decision making evident on all relevant documents?
* Is supervision regular, of good quality and reflective? Is it making a positive difference for this child?
* Have appropriate managers been involved?
* Is there evidence of appropriate IRO/CP Chair oversight/challenge?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **4.** | **Are assessments timely, comprehensive and analytical, and do they lead to appropriately focused help and effective interventions?***Consider:** All assessments completed in the last year – including specialist assessments.
* Do assessments incorporate historical factors (including parents’ history), and are they informed by a current chronology?
* Are the child and significant adults in their life involved in the assessment (including fathers)?
* Is there consideration of identity, ethnicity and culture?
* Does analysis clearly identify the main risks and protective factors and outline what needs to change to make things better?
* IIs the assessment relevant to the child’s current circumstances?
* Does the assessment lead to focused, purposeful and relevant intervention?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **5.** | **Is coordination between agencies effective?***Consider:** Is consent for information-sharing well considered?
* Do the right agencies attend and appropriately contribute to decision making in meetings such as Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings, strategy discussions, CP conferences, Core groups and child in care reviews?
* Is joint work purposeful? Does it result in positive change and outcomes for the child?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **6.** | **Are plans and planning timely and effective? Is there evidence that they are making things better within a time frame that is right for the child?***Consider:** All relevant plans e.g. safety plans, child protection plans, care plans, pathway plans, PEPs, health care plans.
* Are the child, all relevant family members and key agencies involved in shaping and delivering plans?
* Are plans specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely (SMART)?
* Do plans demonstrate improved outcomes for the child?
* Are actions well-coordinated between different plans in place at the same time (for example, child protection plans and EHCP, PEP or MARAC)?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **7.** | **Do children benefit from regular and timely reviews?***Consider:** Are they, their family and carers helped to participate in their reviews and do their views influence decisions made?
* Does the review process ensure plans are purposeful, appropriate?
* Do reviews identify and challenge drift or delay?
* For CIC are they being effectively supported to share their views to inform their review?
* For CIC is there evidence of the child being encouraged to chair their own review?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **8.** | **Is permanence planning timely and well matched to need?***Consider:** Does the child know where s/he will be living?
* Is the care plan clear, easily understood and up to date? Does it effectively set out what help and services will be provided to a child in care and their family? Is it having a positive impact on the child’s circumstances?
* Are plans for permanence, including adoption, timely and in the best interests of the child? Are they achieved without delay?
* If the child is disabled – are they effectively supported in their transition to adult services?
* If the child is a care leaver - are they effectively prepared for independence and supported through their transition to adulthood? Is this supported by a clear pathway plan?
* If the child is a care leaver is there evidence they have been made aware of the post 18 pathway plan review offer?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **9.** | **Are children looked after and care leavers living in good-quality placements or accommodation that meets their needs?***Consider:** Are children appropriately placed according to their assessed needs, including when placed with parents or family/friends?
* Is this a stable placement?
* How effective is matching?
* Does the child have appropriate family time with family and friends?
* How effective is placement support (including adoption support)?
* Are care leavers living in appropriate, safe, permanent and affordable accommodation?
 | **Yes/No/Partially?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |

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| **Record of discussion with child:** |  |
| **If child was not spoken to please state why:** |  |
| **Record of discussion with family:** |  |
| **If family were not spoken to please state why:** |  |
| **Record of audit discussion with SW**  |  |
| **If SW was not spoken to please state why:** |  |
| **Auditors’ Grade: Outstanding/Good/Requires Improvement/Inadequate** |  |
| **Rationale:** |  |
| **Is this an example of good practice overall?** |  |
| **Yes/No?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**What particularly stands out? Please explain:** |
| **Has this case been escalated?** |  |
| **Yes/Not applicable?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **Where relevant has the Family Safeguarding Model been used effectively?** |  |
| **Yes/No/Partially/Not applicable?** (Please delete those that do not apply)**Please explain:** |
| **Recommendations for further action:** | **Who By:** | **By When:** |
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| **Social Worker’s Comments on the outcome of the Learning Audit:** |
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| **SW Line Manager’s comments on the outcome of the Learning Audit:** |
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| **If the line manager and social worker have not been sent the completed audit document for comment please state why:** |
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| **MODERATION AUDIT:** |
| **Date of moderation audit:** |  |
| **Name of moderator:** |  |
| **Role of moderator:** |  |
| **Do you Agree with the Auditor?** | **If not, why not?** |
|  |  |
| **Grade:** | **What would improve the overall Audit grading?** |
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| **What actions need to be taken, if any, by SW, Team Manager, Service Manager, Head of Service (please state which) and within what timeframes?** |
| **Action:** | **Who By:** | **Timeframe:** |
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