

## **Glossary- Pathfinder Pillar 4 (FNSP)**

### **Children in Care (CiC)**

Children in care are subjects of full or interim care orders or section 20 agreements. The local authority shares PR for these children with their birth parents.

### **Child in Need (CiN)**

Children who have CiN plans are assessed as being children in need of support or extra services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health and/ or development under Section 17 of The Children Act 1989. These children have an allocated social worker based with a locality team and a team of multi-agency partners. The FN are involved to progress the child in need plan. The FN of children in need could access support from FNSPs if they meet the criteria.

### **Child Protection (CP)**

Children who have CP plans are subject to statutory child protection processes and have been subject to enquiry under Section 47 of The Children Act 1989. Children who are the subjects of CP plans have been deemed to be at risk of suffering or are suffering significant harm. These children will have a multi-agency team of professionals supporting and assessing them and their FNs will be involved in progressing these plans. FNs of children subject to child protection planning could access support from FNSPs if they meet the eligibility criteria.

### **Child and Family or Early Help Assessment (CFA/EHA)**

An assessment completed by LP's in TAC, early help, social care or by partner agencies. This assessment identifies strengths, needs, and risks for the child and family. The assessment will explore the family network and any support they can implement. The child and family assessment should have been completed within 20 working days of a FNSP package request.

### **Early Help / Front Door (EH/FD)**

The Early Help Front Door team screen requests for the support of an Early Help Worker/Future4Me/ social worker for children/young people open to TAC, CIN, CP or CIC.

### **Family Group Conference (FGC)**

A more formal decision-making meeting in which a child, parent and the wider network come together to plan about the arrangements for the child. The aim of the plan is to ensure that children and young people are safe, and their wellbeing is promoted. The Family Group Conference Meeting is chaired by a Family Group Conference Practitioner where impartiality is required.

FGCs are intended as a respectful and empowering process by which the child, parents and members of the FN are given clear information about the identified concerns by the child's social worker and are asked to work with the FGC practitioner to produce a plan that addresses these worries/concerns. FGC is the second option for family group decision making in Lincolnshire and can be accessed by a referral to the FGC team, if the eligibility criteria are met.

### **Family Network (FN)**

A group of people (adults) who have an ongoing, close, and supportive relationship with the child(ren), young person, and their household. This is inclusive of parents who retain parental responsibility (PR) and any other adults closely connected to the child including wider family members, family friends, neighbors etc. A member of the FN may go on to be a kinship carer if it is assessed that a child can no longer remain in the parents' care.

### **Family Network Meeting (FNM)**

An informal meeting facilitated and supported by a lead professional along with the FN and the child(ren)/ young person if appropriate. The FNM identifies risk, strengths, support needs and safety planning. A FNM should generate a family-led plan and is the primary family group decision making mechanism in Lincolnshire.

### **Family Network Support Package (FNSP)**

A package of support provided by the Local Authority to assist children, young people, and their family network. FNSP's can be practical or financial and are subject to eligibility criteria. FNSPs can be accessed via applications made by the LP or locality team worker (early help or social care) and are subject to review. FNSPs of a higher financial value or that are ongoing/ recurrent in nature are agreed and allocated following approval at panel. FNSP will not supersede support packages or interventions as per the local authorities' statutory requirements, but may prevent statutory processes, such as a child becoming looked after if implemented successfully and risks are reduced. Formal care arrangements, such as kinship or respite care cannot be agreed via FNSPs.

### **Kinship Care**

This is the broad term we use to refer to members of the FN who are providing court ordered or regulated care to children. Kinship carers provide care to children under the auspices of a Child Arrangement Order, Special Guardianship Order, or connected persons (regulation 24) fostering. Kinship carers under these arrangements would not be eligible to access FNSPs.

### **Lead Professional (LP)**

The professional responsible for overseeing and progressing the TAC plan and EHA. This is the worker that the family have chosen to support them throughout the TAC or EH process. This individual could for example, be an education, health, or early help worker but there are a huge variety of professionals who can take on this role. The LP is the person who is the main contact, coordinating the support and offering further advice. When there is a social worker involved, they automatically become the child's LP, however, when a child is open to other universal or specialist services, the designation of the LP can be decided by the FN and professionals.

### **Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)**

Multi-agency child protection team. This term refers to all professionals who are supporting children at CiN or CP level and the group will be made up of social workers, health, education, and other relevant partner agencies such as (but not limited to) the police, probation, substance misuse support services and housing.

## **Parental Responsibility (PR)**

For most children, their biological parents, who are named on their birth certificate will have PR for the child. For some children who are subject to legal orders, the local authority or an alternative carer may have PR for them. Persons with PR for a child are responsible for providing the child with a home and with safety and protection, as well as meeting their universal needs.

## **Private Fostering**

Refers to any arrangement whereby child(ren) or young people under the age of 16 (or 18 if the C/YP has a disability) are placed in the care of an adult who is not closely linked to them and is not a member of their FN for a period more than 28 days. In such arrangements, the C/YP is not deemed looked after, but all private fostering arrangements must be referred to and assessed by the local authority. FNSPs are not accessible to households that are classified as private fostering.

## **Public Law Outline or Pre-proceedings (PLO)**

Children who are the subjects of PLO processes are deemed as being at risk of or are suffering significant harm and the process is intended to streamline the assessment and support of families to achieve outcomes that would minimize risk and concern and avoid the children becoming the subjects of legal proceedings. Identified work and outcomes within the PLO must be achieved within the 26-week timescale. The FNs of children subject to PLO would be eligible for FNSPs providing they meet the eligibility criteria.

## **Respite Care**

In some instances, children and young people may have their needs successfully met when members of their family network provide them with respite care. Parents who have PR for their children, can exercise their PR and access informal and short-term respite care from their family network without the need for assessment or intervention from the local authority. Parents maintain their PR throughout these arrangements. In instances where this is required to meet the needs of the child, FNSPs may assist the FN. FNSPs will be considered, providing there is a clear plan for the child to return to their parent(s) care and/or there are plans for the child to be placed with a member of the family network both informally and formally.

## **Team Around the Child (TAC)**

Offers early help and support for children as soon as there is a worry about them. TAC is how family, family networks and services work together to help children and their families at any point in their lives to prevent or reduce difficulties before they become too difficult. Children who are the subjects of TAC support do not have an allocated social worker and the family networks engagement is voluntary and based on consent.