Public Law Outline and Child Protection Flowchart

**Strategy Discussion and Section 47 Enquiries**

These substantiate concerns that the child is likely to suffer / or is suffering significant harm.

Meeting will determine if CP Procedures are to be initiated

Follow process for going to Court for **Care Proceedings** if this is decided at Legal Panel

**Information & Resources**

This flowchart should be read and utilised in conjunction with:

PLO Flowchart (insert link)

PLO Procedure & Guidance

Pre Proceedings Meeting Agenda & Guidance

Public Law Outline Briefing

Care Proceedings Flowchart

**Child in Need**

Review the plan for the child as Child in Need meetings if this is the outcome

**Pre-Proceedings (PLO) Meeting**

The meeting is held within ten working days of the Letter Before Proceedings being received by the parents. The threshold concerns confirm the ‘Bottom Line’ actions that must be addressed in the Child Protection Plan. The Parenting Assessment schedule and safety plan are presented within this meeting, discussed and signed by all parties.

**Letter Before Proceedings**

If SW and TM are recommending PLO the draft letter and 3 generational genogram is presented to panel. The letter confirms the ‘Bottoms Line’ concerns.

**Legal Planning Meeting (LPM)**

If approval is granted to enter PLO at panel, a date will be given by which a Legal Planning Meeting must be held (within 10 working days). This meeting is attended by the TM, SW and LA solicitor. The meeting refines and agrees the content of the Letter Before Proceedings and discusses the necessity of any expert assessment. Timescales and parameters for parenting assessments and safety plans are also outlined.

**Recommendation made to go to Legal Panel**

SW and TM initiate the recommendation of going to Legal Panel in consultation with the relevant Service Manager, taking into account the views of the Core Group membership.

The IRO views MUST be included within the Legal Panel Referral

**Core Groups**

Every 4 weeks

**First Core Group**

Within 10 working days of ICPC

**Second Review Child Protection Conference**

Held within 6 months of ICPC

(6 monthly intervals for subsequent reviews)

This second review is approx. 9 months into CPP process.

At this second RCPC, consideration must be given, and a decision made whether to recommend PLO.

An updated / new Child and Family Assessment would inform this decision.

The possible outcomes of the PLO consideration are:

* Recommend PLO
* Continue Child Protection Plan

**Period of Change**

The Period of Change starts following the Pre-Proceedings Meeting.

This is where progress against the Bottom Line actions should take place.

**Pre-Proceedings (PLO) Review**

The review is held eight weeks after the Pre-Proceedings Meeting (or Review if second review meeting)

Outcomes are: Further Pre-Proceedings Review; Come off PLO and re-focus on Child Protection; Child in Need; or go to Legal Panel for decision to go to care proceedings

**Legal Panel**

Usual Legal Panel processes are followed including booking, paperwork and timescales.

Decision made to initiate PLO or not. If not, continue child protection plan.

(If the case is returning to Legal Panel after PLO has been tried, a decision may be made to go to Court for care proceedings).

**Children in Care**

For children looked after under s20 or kinship arrangement.

Any recommendation to go to PLO should be made by the SW and TM in consultation with the Service Manager and referred to Legal Panel

**Child in Need**

Any recommendation to go to PLO should be made by the SW and TM (in consultation with the Service Manager) and referred to Legal Panel.

Where the plan is not safeguarding the child, it may be necessary, to go to ICPC or to Legal Panel for PLO

**First Review Child Protection Conference**

Within 12 weeks (3 months) of ICPC

**Consider need to Reschedule Meetings**

Discuss with CP Chair if subsequent Core Groups and RCPCs need to be rescheduled so that where possible, they inform PLO meetings.

A timetable of all meetings should be developed including PLO and shared.

**Child Protection Plan is reviewed**

The ‘Bottom Line’ actions must be addressed as priority in the Child Protection Plan. This should be explained to multi-agency partners in the core group and conference. Other actions can remain in the plan.

**Core Groups and Review Child Protection Conference**

Core Groups and Review Child Protection Conference take place as per the rescheduled timetable.

Follow Child Protection Process

**Initial Child Protection Conference** (ICPC) is initiated.