**This template should be used to provide a rationale for decisions that need to be made in balancing risk for children and young people, including the use of unregistered or unregulated (care) arrangements, the use of secure and other such high-level risks.**

**The template should be used to record the rationale for a decision that requires sign off by a senior manager so that the risk can be shared. It should be completed by the Team Manager and quality assured by the Service Manager, then sent for sign off by the relevant Assistant Director. Assistant Director will need to sign off the recommendation before seeking sign off from the Director of Corporate Parenting.**

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| **Details of the Team Manager completing the defensible decision making:** | |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Team/service:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

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| **Full Name (including Alias):** |  |
| **Date of Birth:** |  |
| **LCS Number:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Any other relevant children (siblings):** |  |
| **Please indicate the child’s status:** |  |
| **Reason for the defensible decision:** |  |
| **Has the CP Chair been alerted?** |  |
| **Has the IRO been alerted?** |  |
| **Has legal advice been sought?** |  |
| **Have EDT been informed?** |  |

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| 1. **Brief Summary of the critical decision under consideration:** *(What is the issue that needs oversight and agreement from the Director of Corporate Parenting?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Assessment of Risk:** *(Clearly outline whether a risk assessment has been completed. How is the concern being managed and addressed, and by whom? Are there any challenges to managing the risk; what are these, and what is being done to address this?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Outline the key elements of the safety plan.** *What are the key actions being taken to mitigate the risks, and what is the identified contingency plan (including for EDT). If there are key meetings due to take place, please identify what and when. If there is not a safety plan, one should be completed as a matter of urgency as the defensible decision cannot be signed off without.* | | | | |
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| 1. **What are the views, wishes and feelings of the child/YP, parent or carer?** *How have these been balanced against the presenting risks?* | | | | |
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| 1. **Have the right professionals been consulted, including legal advisors, professional and independent experts?** *(A parent if the child remains in family; Cafcass, legal, parties where proceedings are in place; the IRO where the child is looked after; the CP chair where a child protection plan is in place, Virtual School, Education Provision, Inclusion and Additional Needs, Health)* | | | | |
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| 1. **Have alternative options have been considered?** *(please specify if the answer is yes. For example, if an unregistered provision is proposed, what searches have taken place for a registered provision and what other alternative options have been explored?)* | | | | |
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| 1. **Date for review of the defensible decision** | | |  | |
| **SERVICE MANAGER REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the SM endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Service Manager:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED:** |  | **Print Service Manager Name:** | | **DATE:** |
| **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the AD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Assistant Director:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED:** |  | **Print AD Name:** | | **DATE:** |
| **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PARENTING REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION:** *(does the AD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)* | | | | |
| **Director of Corporate Parenting:** | | | | |
| **SIGNED** |  | **Print Director of Corporate Parenting name** | | **DATE:** |

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| **Defensible decision making update:** | |
| Name: |  |
| Team: |  |
| Date Updated defensible decision making completed: |  |
| Next Update Due: |  |
| **Provide an update of developments since last defensible decision making form was completed:** | |
|  | |
| **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PARENTING REVIEW OF DECISION & RECOMMENDATION: (does the AD endorse the decision, what actions are needed, any outstanding issues which need to be addressed?)** | |

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| **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PARENTING** | | | |
| **SIGNED** |  | **Print Director of Corporate Parenting name** | **DATE:** |

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| **Title** | **Defensible Decision Making Template** |
| **Purpose** |  |
| **Updated by** | **Siobhan Walsh** |
| **Approved by** | **Corporate Parenting Practice Leadership Team** |
| **Date** | **14.11.24** |
| **Version** | **V2** |
| **Status** | **Final** |
| **Frequency** | **Every two years** |
| **Next review date** | **November 20206** |