**IN THE FAMILY COURT (NEWCASTLE)**

**IN THE MATTER OF S39 (1) (C) CHILDREN ACT 1989 APPLICATION TO DISCHARGE A CARE ORDER**

**BETWEEN**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Applicant**

**AND**

**PARENT**

**AND**

**PARENT**

**AND**

**CHILD / YOUNG PERSON**

**Respondent**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STATEMENT OF (NAME OF SOCIAL WORKER)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Introduction**
   1. I, NAME, am a qualified and registered Social Worker employed by Northumberland County Council with the AREA Locality Team based in ADDRESS. I qualified in DATE from XXXX University with a XXXX degree in Social Work. I have worked within this team since XXXX.
   2. I have been the allocated Social Worker for XXXX family since DATE.
   3. I make this statement in support of the Local Authority’s application to revoke the Care Order for NAME.
2. **The reasons for the application**

Give an overview about why the application is being made, when child was placed in the current placement, why NCC no longer needs to share parental responsibility, this might include details from the safety or success goal, if that has been achieved.

1. **Concerns which led to the care proceedings**

Keep this brief. Think about what was in the original danger statement, what was the worrying adult behaviour, how bad was it and how did it hurt the child.

1. **Any current outstanding concerns**

Set out any matters of concern and what is being done to address these. If none, just say: There are no outstanding concerns. What are the next steps in the mapping tool or last review. This might be in the what needs to happen section of the last report. What is the detail from the success or safety goal, what are we trying to achieve for the child or young person and how are we going to get there.

1. **The current arrangements for the child’s care and outline the current contact arrangements with parents and siblings**

Confirm where the child lives, who else lives in their home, who are the people that the child or young person is naturally connected to and how do we support them to maintain or strengthen those relationships?

1. **Any change in the child’s circumstances since the conclusion of the care proceedings**

Please provide a brief overview of the support and intervention the child / young person has received since becoming subject to the Care Order. This information will come from the timeline, safety/success goals and next steps.

Give a brief overview of any changes in the child’s care and contact arrangements

1. **The number of times the child has been seen by children’s services in the 24 months prior to issue**

Just provide a list of dates the child was seen, by whom, where that was (school/home/other venue)

1. **The views of the parents and significant others (including IRO) about the application to discharge the care order**

If you are unable to provide the view of a parent, explain what you have done to try and speak to parents and confirm the date of LAC review when it was agreed to apply to discharge the care order. if there has been a delay in progressing the application you will need to explain this

1. **Provide information from any other relevant services involved with the family**

Do a summary or say “no other services involved”.

1. **Welfare Checklist in s1(3) Children Act 1989**

(**a) the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned (considered in the light of his age and understanding);** This information can be gathered by using the M3H tool or a version of the mapping to look at what the child or young person thinks is going well in their life, what they are worried about and what they want to happen next.

**(b) his physical, emotional and educational needs; including information from the child’s school about attendance, punctuality, presentation, and academic progress and any relevant medical information about the child**

**(c) the likely effect on him of any change in his circumstances;**

**(d) his age, sex, background and any characteristics of his which the court considers relevant;**

**(e) any harm which he has suffered or is at risk of suffering;** This information will be in the harm matrix or mapping within the assessments.

**(f) how capable each of his parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his needs;** This information will be in the harm matrix or mapping within the assessments

**(g) the range of powers available to the court under this Act in the proceedings in question.**

1. **Provide details of the proposed arrangements for any continuing support if the order is discharged.**

Or if there is to be no further involvement by NCC make that clear. What is the current success or safety goals and timeline of how that will be achieved.

1. **Conclusion**

The court is invited to discharge the Care order dated (add date of order)

***Guidance***

*NB Remember to number the paragraphs.*

*Once your team manager has reviewed the statement and you have made any necessary amendments, send to legal duty who will arrange to submit the application to court.*

Signed: Dated:

NAME, Social Worker