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

**Decision if second PLO Review**

A decision must be made by the responsible Service Manager for a second PLO Review. This is likely to be in exceptional circumstances.

 If insufficient progress within 16 weeks then go to Legal Panel to request 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).

**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

**Children in Care**

A child may be 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

**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

**First Review Child Protection Conference**

Within 12 weeks (3 months) of ICPC

**First Core Group**

Within 10 working days of ICPC

**Core Groups**

Every 4/6 weeks

**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.

**Letter Before Proceedings**

The letter is drafted by the Social Worker, signed off by the Team Manager and presented to Legal Panel. The letter confirms the ‘Bottoms Line’ concerns. When approved by Legal Panel, Social Worker sends the letter.

**Pre-Proceedings (PLO) Meeting**

The meeting is held within one week 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.

**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 six to eight weeks of 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

**Child in Need**

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

Follow Child Protection Process

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