

To:

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Our Ref: GH/jp

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Dear Colleagues

**Re: Public Law Outline Recording Standards**

I hope you are keeping well and enjoying the better weather that has managed to push past the rain! In line with the Children's Services road map from response to recovery, I have been starting to go out and about visiting Localities and Services across the county. Thank you for the warm welcome I have received so far. Thank you also for your continuing commitment and hard work to improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and their families. I have really appreciated meeting people face to face and the overwhelming response I have received from all staff I have met is that the opportunity to have planned time back in offices is much appreciated, especially to touch base with line managers and team colleagues.

As you all know, we have all been working extremely hard during the current pandemic to establish and maintain 'grip and pace' in planning for our most vulnerable children who are currently subject to the Public Law Outline (PLO) process. You will now have had the opportunity all attend a Webinar and will have received the paperwork setting out the updated PLO Protocol which was implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. I hope this has assisted you to take account of the recent improvements and developments that have been made and that you are expected to achieve moving forward.

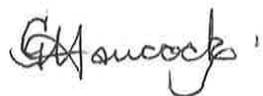
As we are now moving into a position of recovery it is essential that we embed the practice and performance improvements that we have all made and with that in mind the Leadership Team has also developed a set of recording standards. We expect everyone to adopt these as part of your everyday practice as this will help us to keep oversight of individual children and achieve consistently good practice for all. This is an important aspect of our improvement journey and helps to address some of the feedback highlighted in our Ofsted Focussed Visit in October 2020.

It is essential that there is no drift or delay in securing legal protection for vulnerable children and so we can achieve timely permanence for children in our care. I am confident that the PLO recording standards alongside the recent Webinars, PLO practice protocol and Liquid Logic developments all combine to provide the conditions within which you can deliver the consistently good and better practice required.

Please take some time to review the PLO recording standards and make sure you discuss these with your colleagues and pick up specific issues with your line manager. If you have any outstanding queries please raise these with your Head of Service.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Your hard work and continuing commitment are very much appreciated.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hancock', with a small flourish at the end.

Gail Hancock  
Interim Director for Children's Safeguarding and Care