

To: All CSs staff

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Our Ref: GH/dh

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Dear Colleagues

Re: Joint Child Protection Review – notification of planned activity in November 2020

You will hopefully be aware that as part of our strengthened arrangements for quality assuring child protection practice, a joint review exercise involving Child Protection Conference Chairs, allocated Social Workers and Team Managers was undertaken in July 2020. This focused on a cohort of children with heightened risk factors relating to the duration of child protection plans or repeat child protection plans for a second or subsequent time. These are the children about whom we have the most significant levels of concern so it is essential that we are absolutely confident about the rigour of our practice and the progress of our safety planning for each child.

Recently, I asked our interim Assistant Director, Philip Segurola, and our Improvement Consultant, Kanchan Jadeja, to review this cohort of children again to check on the progress we have made to improve their outcomes. Philip and Kanchan have identified some children where there remains drift or uncertainty in the protection planning process. The identified children will now be subject to some additional scrutiny via a Review Panel. This will involve a case consultation with the allocated Social Worker, Team Manager and nominated Child Protection Conference Chair. Identified officers for each child will be notified of the arrangements in relation to the children they are supporting and this information will be sent through as soon as possible.

Moving forward, we will also be repeating the joint review exercise for children subject to Public Law Outline pre-proceedings planning in excess of 26 weeks and this activity will also take place in November 2020. We know from the recent Ofsted Focus Visit that this will be an area of our practice that will continue to receive a high level of scrutiny from inspectors when they return to undertake our full inspection next year so it is imperative that our practice is robust in this area. Some further quality assurance activity is planned towards the end of November 2020 and an overview report will be prepared to summarise the findings and outline any recommendations for improvement. I will write to you again regarding these developments.

Thanks you for your continued hard work and commitment and I trust I will have your full cooperation with the above as we move forward.

Kind regards



Gail Hancock
Interim Director for Children's Safeguarding & Care