



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Children, Schools and Families

### PROCEDURE FOR CHILDREN THAT HAVE A DUAL STATUS

Multi agency assessment for the discontinuation of a child protection plan when child is subject to both a child protection plan and child looked after by the Local Authority.

Sharon Simpson – Head of Business Standards

Caroline Brady – Team Manager Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

September 2012

Updated procedure following a multi agency meeting in November 2012

## 1. Context

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that a consistent approach is taken when children are subject to a dual status; ie being subject to a child protection plan and then becoming a child looked after by Bedford Borough Council.

### Criteria and timing for a Multi agency assessment to consider the discontinuation of a child protection plan; outside of a conference;

To avoid the duplication of two safeguarding processes working in parallel a multi agency assessment to consider a child protection plan when a child is looked after by the local authority should only be agreed if one of the following criteria applies to support a single review process in line with the care planning regulations.

#### **Criteria:**

- The Local Authority has secured an Interim Care Order (ICO) and consequently share parental responsibility for the child therefore a legal framework is in place to protect the child.
- The Local Authority has submitted an application for care proceedings and the No Order Principle applies.
- A child is accommodated subject to Section 20 of the 1989 Children Act: this is a voluntary arrangement with the agreement from a person with parental responsibility and there is no plan for the child to return home and there is no identified risk of the child being removed from the care of the Local Authority. This must be evidenced in the Care Plan for the young person which is written in conjunction with the young person and the person with parental responsibility. Evidence of legal planning must be reflected in the Care Plan with a clear contingency plan should the person with parental responsibility unexpectedly withdraw from the agreed care plan and take steps to remove the child from Local Authority Care.

#### **The process:**

##### The allocated social worker

- To complete a BIC 500 notifying the conference & review service the child is accommodated to request an Initial Looked After Review. This form will alert the conference and review team if the child is also subject to a child protection plan.
- The allocated social worker will follow statutory procedures for children Looked After. The child's Care Plan will be informed by the previous protection plan and the current needs assessment as a Child Looked After.

Or

The team manager will inform the conference chair when the criteria is met for an existing looked after child subject to a child protection plan.

##### Allocation

- The Conference Chair in almost all cases will be the allocated Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure continuity for the oversight and monitoring of the child's on going welfare.

##### The Independent Reviewing Officer:

- The Independent Reviewing Officer will assess the child's dual status against the criteria above and, if met, will recommend the discontinuation of the child protection plan enable the child's welfare to be monitored by a single planning and reviewing process led by the IRO leading to the development of a single plan in line with the Care Planning Regulations 2010.
- The Independent Reviewing Officer will consult by letter( appendix 1) all professionals that were invited to attend the most recent child protection conference that led to the current plan to inform of current changes to the child's status and request their view to the discontinue the plan .
- Professionals are asked to respond in writing within 10 days regarding their recommendation.
- On receipt of the recommendation from the consultation the Independent Reviewing Officer will assess if there is dissent

#### Dissenting views

When more than one agency records a dissenting view to the decision of the conference, the Conference Chair will refer the case for review by their senior manager. If the outcome of the review is that the senior manager considers it would be appropriate to reconvene the Child Protection Conference, this should occur within 20 working days. Alternatively if the result of the review is that whilst it is appropriate for the decision of the conference to stand, there are issues which require further discussion with managers from other agencies, these will be taken up accordingly.

#### The decision

- The decision will be communicated by letter (Appendix 2) to all professionals following receipt and assessment of the professionals recommendations.
- The Childs case file will updated of the decision

#### **The Criteria is NOT met for consideration of a Multi Agency Assessment outside of a formal conference.**

- A child subject to child protection plan and looked after under Section 20 voluntary agreement CA 1989 where the threshold for legal planning is not met and associated risks identified if returning to the care of a person that poses a risk.
- A child subject to a child protection living at home or with an extended family member on an ICO.

#### **References**

All the above can be down loaded from the LSCB Link:

<http://www.bedfordshirelscb.org.uk/publications.php>

The conference chair and social worker will consult conference members at conferences and core groups in line with the agenda for a consensus for a multi agency decision to discontinue the child protection plan if the criteria is met before the next scheduled review conference date.



# BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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*Borough Charter granted in 1166*

our reference /  
please ask for  
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e-mail [conferenceandreviewdutydesk@bedford.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:conferenceandreviewdutydesk@bedford.gcsx.gov.uk)  
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5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Borough Hall  
Cauldwell Street  
Bedford  
MK42 9AP  
Tel: 01234 276766  
Fax: 01234 228877**

Dear Colleague,

**Multi Agency Consultation to Remove \*\*\*\* (Child's name) from a Child Protection Plan.**

**Re: \*\* (child's name) DoB \*\***

\*\*\*\* was made the subject of a Child Protection Plan under the category of \*\*\*\* on the \*\*\* (date).

The Conference and Review Service has been advised that he/she was made the subject of an Interim Care Order under Section 38 of the Children Act 1989 on \*\*\*\* and has been placed in foster care since that date.

Given that \*\*\*\*'s care and planning needs are now being managed within the Court Process, and the Looked after Children Review Process and that a Guardian has now been appointed, I am seeking your agreement for the Child Protection Plan in respect of \*\*\* to cease, and that a single process should be in place to monitor safeguarding and care planning.

Please notify me in writing by \*\*\*\*\* (10 working days from date of letter) of your views regarding this proposal.

**Please direct all correspondence to the Conference and Review Secure Email address or in writing to the above addresses.**

Yours Sincerely

Conference Chair/Independent Reviewing Officer, cc Children's Social Care File.



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*Borough Charter granted in*

1166

our reference /  
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**Borough Hall**  
**Cauldwell Street**  
**Bedford**  
**MK42 9AP**  
Tel: 01234 276766  
Fax: 01234 228877

Dear Colleague,

**Re: \*\* (child's name)            DOB \*\***

**Confirmation of Child Protection Plan Ending.**

Following the recent consultation with you and representatives from partner agencies involved with \*\*\*\*\* (child's name) I can confirm that as a result of the change in his/her legal status the child protection plan in respect of \*\*\*\*\* (child's name) ended on \*\*\*\*\*(date).

As a child looked after by the Local Authority under Section \*\*\* of the Children Act 1989. \*\*\*\*\* (child's name)'s needs will continue to be reviewed under the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.

As the allocated Independent Reviewing Officer for \*\*\* (child's name) I have the ongoing responsibility for reviewing and monitoring the care planning process and ensuring that the Local Authority exercise their parental responsibility for \*\*\* and support him / her to achieve his full potential.

Yours Sincerely

Conference Chair/Independent Reviewing Officer  
cc Children's Social Care File