



Guidelines for consideration of a Child Protection Plan

IS THE CHILD/YOUNG PERSON A 'CHILD IN NEED'?

Under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 a Child/Young Person is a Child in Need if:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development without Services being provided;
- b) His/her Health or Development is likely to be significantly impaired without Services being provided.

DOES THE CHILD/YOUNG PERSON NEED A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN?

Has the Child Protection Conference established the following?

- a) The Child/Young Person can be shown to have suffered ill treatment or impairment of health and development because of Physical, Emotional or Sexual Abuse or Neglect and professional judgment is that further ill treatment or impairment are likely.
And/or
- b) Professional judgment substantiated by the findings of professional enquiries or by research evidence is that the Child/Young Person is likely to suffer ill treatment or the impairment of Health and Development because of Physical, Emotional, or Sexual Abuse or Neglect.

FOR REVIEW CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES:

A CHILD/YOUNG PERSON MAY NO LONGER BE SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN IF THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT:

- a) It is judged that the Child/Young person is no longer at continuing risk of Significant Harm
e.g. The Risk of Significant Harm has been reduced by action taken;
The Child/Young person's family's circumstances have changed;
Re-assessment of the Child/Young Families circumstances indicate that a Child Protection Plan is not necessary.
- b) The Child/Young Person and their family have moved permanently to another Local Authority and that Local Authority has accepted responsibility; Only after this event may the original local authority discontinue its Child Protection plan
- c) The Child/Young Person has reached 18 years of age, (to end the Child Protection Plan, the local authority should have a review around the child's birthday and this should be planned), has died or has permanently left the UK.

A CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WHO IS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN MAY STILL REQUIRE SUPPORTS AND THE ENDING OF A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN SHOULD NEVER LEAD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT.

Definitions and Categories of Significant Harm when considering a Child Protection Plan Working Together 2023

What is Abuse?

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.