

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Service

Child Protection Conference Agenda

Initial



Introduction by Chair, including:

- Ground rules/Introductions
- Purpose of meeting – to confirm whether or not the child/young person is judged to be at risk of significant harm and, if yes, to agree an outline child protection plan.

Information Sharing:

- Each agency to share with conference any information that they believe is relevant to identifying the factors associated with the risk of significant harm, and the positive / resilient factors that are important for the child/children's wellbeing.
- Any questions from professionals or family members with regard to the information that has been shared and from reports that have been read

Parents Views:

- How often have the family been visited by the social care team.

Children's views:

- Have the child/ren been seen alone, how often and by whom. What are their views

Summary:

- Focusing on the risk/resilient factors in the family

Significant Harm:

- Confirm agencies views as to whether child / ren / young people are at continuing risk of significant harm leading to the need for a child protection plan.

Develop outline child protection plan:

- This should encompass essential outcomes of all agencies to ensure child or young person is safeguarded and their welfare is promoted

Questions:

- Ask each agency what outcomes are needed in their area of expertise to ensure that the risk of harm is diminished, how they feel this can be achieved and what would be a realistic timescale.
- Check what other agencies, services may be required to assist with the plan and why?
- Ensure agencies accept responsibility for the outcomes relating to their area of expertise (name the worker on the plan)
- Ensure timescales are agreed
- Highlight how family will evidence significant change
- Be clear about which professional is responsible for checking that the required changes have taken place and what action will be taken by whom when they have not
- Ensure a contingency plan is in place if agreed actions are not completed or if circumstances change.

Core Group:

- Appointment of key worker
- Establishing core group of professionals and family members, set ground rules for core group
- All members must attend, if they cannot they should contact the SW and explain why and give a verbal update
- If you do not attend it is your responsibility to follow up the date for the next core group
- All members have responsibility to ensure that core groups happen and if they are not happening for reporting this to the social care team manager.
- If any professional repeatedly does not attend the core group the SW should take responsibility for investigating and if necessary report to the professional's line manager.
- Give opportunity to book first core group meeting.
- Agree date for next review.
- Chair to write up checklist

Working Together to Safeguard Children

What is abuse and neglect?

1.32 Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

1.33 Physical abuse 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

1.34 Emotional abuse is 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 children 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 the 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

1.35 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 (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

1.36 Neglect is 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 as a result 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); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Service

Child Protection Conference Agenda

Review



Introduction by Chair, including:

- Ground rules
- Purpose of meeting – to review the outline child protection plan agreed at initial conference and to confirm whether or not the child/young person is judged to be at continued risk of significant harm
- Restatement of the concerns that led to the need for a child protection plan. (Chairs summary from previous conference)

Questions:

- Have core groups been held in line with statutory guidelines
- Are there any issues with regard to the function/attendance of the core group
- Has the core assessment been updated/completed and shared with all core group members

Review of the Child Protection Plan to include:

- Identifying successful elements of the plan and areas of limited or no progress in the plan
- Has core group developed the plan including any new outcomes that have been identified through completion of the core assessment

Parents Views:

- How often have the family been visited by the social care team, what are their views

Children's Views:

- Has the child/children been seen alone, how often and by whom and what are their views

Significant Harm:

- Confirm agencies views as to whether the child/ren/young people are at continuing risk of significant harm leading to the need for a further child protection plan.

Development of ongoing child protection plan:

- Ask each agency what if any additional outcomes are needed in their area of expertise to ensure that the risk of harm is diminished, how they feel this can be achieved and what would be a realistic timescale
- Check what other agencies, services may be required to assist with the plan and why.

Discuss:

- If significant improvements in circumstances have not been achieved or are judged to be unlikely to be achieved conference will need to take a view as to whether to recommend the initiation of the PLO process. At 2nd review alert SW that at the 3rd review consideration needs to be given as to whether enough progress is being made within timescales and if not the Chair needs to alert SMT.

Re-establish Core Group:

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