

ESCALATION PROCESS

It is the responsibility of each agency represented within the core group, and each member of the core group individually, to escalate any concerns about the effective working of the child protection plan or the core group itself within their Agency and to the Case Manager.

Concerns related to the effectiveness of the CPP:

Consideration should be given to the need for further action to be taken where:

- The CPP has not been effective in reducing the risk of harm, or there is an increased risk of harm to the child
- There is a failure to obtain or retain the cooperation of the parent, carers, or child in working on the plan
- Changed or unforeseen circumstances

Action to be taken

Any of the above must be brought immediately to the attention of the Lead Social Worker, who must inform his or her manager. A decision will be made regarding the need for any immediate protective action and/or a Section 47 Enquiry and/or a RCPC.

Concerns related to the effectiveness of the Core Group

Concerns may arise from:

- Difficulties implementing the CPP due to disagreement among professionals
- Core Group member/s not carrying out his or her responsibilities outlined in CPP
- Continual absence from Core Group meetings by members
- Failure to provide information for the Core Group, or an up to date child protection plan.
- Delay and drift with CPP

Action to be taken:

- Discussion with the Lead Social Worker and Manager
- Discussion between Core Group members
- Involvement of relevant managers and/or Designated Professionals within agencies where issues remain unresolved.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CORE GROUP SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP OF THE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN AND MUST CO-OPERATE TO ACHIEVE ITS AIMS.



CORE GROUP WORKING Information for Core Group Members October 2017

As a member of a Core Group for a child who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan you share responsibility for keeping that child safe. Please read this leaflet so that you have an understanding of your role.

A Core Group that works well together is the most effective means of keeping a child safe.

Responsibilities of the Core Group:

The Core Group is responsible for developing and implementing the Child Protection Plan (CPP) by:

- Agreeing the detailed CPP which is owned by all core group members and must include the SMART objectives required to Safeguard the Child
- Progressing and monitoring the CPP against the agreed timescales and outcomes
- Ensuring the child's needs remain paramount and maintaining a child-centred focus
- Ensuring the views of parents, carers and children are heard and taken into account
- Contributing to the multi-agency assessments
- Enlisting the involvement of other specifically skilled professionals relevant to the completion of the assessment
- Sharing information routinely and immediately if there are increased concerns about the safety of the child, and taking appropriate steps in response to changing circumstances to ensure the child is adequately safeguarded
- Contributing to an evaluation of the effectiveness of the CPP for the Review Child Protection Conference (RCPC)

Membership of the Core Group should include:

- The Lead Social Worker who leads the Core Group, and will ensure that each core group member receives an up to date copy of the CPP
- The child/young person if appropriate
- Family members, carers
- Professionals who have direct contact with the family

Responsibilities of individual Core Group Members:

- Attend and participate in Core Group meetings or other relevant meetings
- Carry out agreed tasks within timescales and in accordance with their agency functions. If this is not possible, the Lead Social Worker must be alerted.
- Provide specialist advice, which will inform the CPP
- Provide the Lead Social Worker with written reports as requested

- Communicate regularly with the Lead Social Worker about the progress of their part of the agreed CPP
- Inform the Lead Social Worker of any change in circumstances relevant to the CPP, indicating a need to convene a Core Group meeting or a RCPC.
- Inform the Lead Social Worker if copies of the CPP are not received within 5 working days
- **To escalate within their agencies any concerns about the effectiveness of the CPP or Core Group functioning**

Process for First Core Group Meeting:

- This will be held within 10 working days of the Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)
- The Lead Social Worker's Manager will chair the first Core Group meeting
- Using the outline CPP drawn up at the ICPC, the Core Group must develop the detailed CPP
- The detailed CPP should include how often the child/young person should be seen by each practitioner and the timescales for the completion of agreed actions
- The Core Group should consider what steps need to be taken to complete the Core Assessment
- The CPP should address action to be taken should there be a lack of progress
- The detailed CPP should be written up on the available pro forma and circulated by the Lead Social Worker to all Core Group members
- The next core group will meet in not less than four weeks, the date will be agreed.

Subsequent Core Group Meetings:

- The Core Group should meet sufficiently regularly to facilitate effective working together and make any necessary alterations to the CPP as circumstances change
- It is recommended that Core Groups should meet every 4 weeks
- Subsequent Core Groups will be chaired by the Lead Social Worker unless the level of concern increases when the Team Manager should chair the meeting.
- Following a RCPC the Core Group should meet within 10 working days. This date will be arranged at the RCPC.