

# Children first and at the heart of all we do

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### PRACTICE STANDARD:

#### Planning and Permanence



**All children have an outcome focussed plan which is expressed in SMART terms, and which is understood by everyone involved in it.**

All Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans will describe positive outcomes we are aiming to achieve for the child.</li> <li>Plans will be written with long term aspirations in mind, recognising that short term objectives should contribute to security, independence and fulfilment for children for their childhoods and beyond.</li> <li>The steps being carried out to achieve the outcomes will be expressed in SMART terms. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely)</li> <li>Plans will be co-produced with families (children, young people and their parents and carers), so that the activities family members are allocated make sense to them, feel achievable and are expressed in a way that they can identify with.</li> <li>Plans will draw on strengths in the family and the support around them so that in the longer term the family can manage better without professional intervention.</li> </ul>	Practitioner
Early Help Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Help Support Plans are reviewed at intervals of no more than 12 weeks</li> </ul>	Lead Practitioner
Child in Need Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child in Need Plans are reviewed at intervals clearly agreed with the Social Worker's line manager but no more than three monthly.</li> <li>If there are significant changes in the family's circumstances, consideration should be given to an early review and rationale for this recorded on the child's file.</li> </ul>	Social Worker
Child Protection Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children subject of Child Protection Plans have an outline plan established at the 1st Child Protection Conference; this is then developed by the Core Group at their 1st meeting which should take place 10 days after the initial child protection conference</li> <li>The Core Group should meet to review and update the child protection plan within six weeks of the first meeting, and at a minimum frequency of once every two</li> </ul>	Social Worker

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	<p>months following the first Conference. More regular meetings may be required, according to the needs and age of the child.</p>	
Care Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children in our Care every child will have an up-to-date care plan recorded on their file within 10 working days of being placed.</li> <li>Permanence planning meeting will be set up prior to the first statutory review, and these will be held every 6 weeks until permanence is secured.</li> <li>At the point of the second review the child must have a permanency plan included in their care plan</li> </ul>	Social Worker
PEPS (Personal Education Plans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initial PEP meeting must take place within 10 days of a child entering care.</li> <li>Subsequently a PEP meeting must be held every term, three in each academic year.</li> <li>Consideration must be given to holding an additional meeting if a child changes school or placement, or there are concerns about their education.</li> </ul>	Social Worker
Health Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will have a health plan (completed at the initial health assessment) within 20 working days of placement so that it is available at the first statutory review.</li> <li>The social worker will ensure that placement information workflows in LCS are completed within 24 hours of placement to enable the initial health assessment to be requested.</li> <li>Arrangements are made for the health plan to be reviewed in a health assessment every 12 months, or 6 months for children under 5 years</li> </ul>	Social Worker
Pathway Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care Leavers: A pathway plan will be started when the young person is 15 years and 3 months and will be reviewed by the IRO as part of the statutory review by the young person's 16th birthday.</li> <li>A young person's Pathway Plan will be reviewed within 3 months and thereafter within a maximum of six months</li> </ul>	Social Worker/Young Person Advisor
Short Break Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children receiving Short Breaks will have their plans reviewed within 3 months and thereafter within a maximum of six months.</li> <li>Any reduction in frequency is discussed by the SW, line manager and IRO in line with Dudley Children's Services policies and guidance</li> </ul>	Social Worker



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EHCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children and Young People (0 – 25) with an EHC plan will have this reviewed, as a minimum, every 12 months (6 months recommendation for EY's).</li><li>• The review must be undertaken in partnership with the child/parent/YP, and must take account of their views, wishes and feelings.</li><li>• The LA will inform the parent/carer/YP within 4 weeks of the AR meeting whether it proposes to maintain, amend or cease the plan.</li><li>• An EHCP may be ceased if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ YP has achieved all outcomes set and no-longer requires the special educational provision specified in the EHCP.</li><li>➢ YP is over 16 and leaves to take up paid employment</li><li>➢ YP enters Higher Education</li><li>➢ YP is over 18 and no-longer wants to engage in further learning</li><li>➢ YP moves to another LA</li><li>➢ End of academic year that they turn 25.</li></ul></li></ul>	SEND Case Officer
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