

Children first and at the heart of all we do

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PRACTICE STANDARD:

Managerial Oversight and Decision Making



Work with families takes place with the support and challenge of managers who ensure decisions are made carefully and at the right level.

Children in need of protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever there is cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, a strategy discussion will be held within 24 hours. This will be in the form of a MS teams meeting where possible and will be chaired by a Social Work Team Manager. • The strategy meeting should involve all relevant agencies such as police, health, education as a minimum and other bodies such as the referring agency. The fostering service should be involved if the child is in our care. The plan for the enquiries and decisions from the strategy discussion will be recorded. If no face-to-face meeting is held, this needs to be recorded and authorised by the Team Manager. • Complex strategy meetings should be chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, must take place as soon as possible and no later than five working days from this person receiving the request. 	Social Work Managers
All Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management oversight and decision making should be routinely recorded on a child's file to ensure that there is evidence of clear direction, timely and defensible decision making. • Decisions and oversight will be recorded within one working day. • Managers will have oversight of assessments and plans reading these, providing comments, feedback and a view as part of the authorisation process. 	

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- A record of supervision will be recorded on each child's file at a minimum of every eight weeks with a supervision record being completed on their file within two working days.
- Children in agreed long term placements, children with disabilities, where Direct Payments and Short Breaks are in place should be discussed 12 weekly.
- Family Safeguarding supervision (children and young people allocated a social worker in the Adolescent and Family Safeguarding teams) will show input from all the practitioners working with that family.
- Managers will respond to escalations within 5 working days as detailed in the Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Chair Dispute Resolution Process. Managers will respond to escalations made using the DSPP escalation process within 5 working days as detailed in DSPP resolution process.
- A manager will respond to stage one complaints within 5 working days sending a copy of the response to the complaints manager, together with a brief resume of learning.

