

Cluster group presentation (13-15th June 2022)

- Presenters:
- Donna Hugh- Team Manager
- Elton Sanders- Team Manager
- Claudia Ursulescu-Advance Practitioner
- Mark Edwards- Team Manager
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- Sanaa El-Khatib-Advance Practitioners

CIN/CP Service

We are a Child in Need and Child Protection Service.

This means the following:

- 5 teams with one specialist team known as the Adolescent team that works with children 11+.
- The service manages cases on a CIN, CP plan.
- We take cases to the initial court hearings.
- Hold temporary LAC cases under s20 agreement if the plan is to return home.
- work with children on EHCP plans (children with Learning difficulties/ physical disabilities), with mental health issues, NRPF families and the odd unaccompanied minors.

How cases come to our Service

- We get all our cases from the Referral and assessment team via case transfers.
- Transfer- in from other Local authorities.
- Pre-birth when the case is already open to the service and one sibling is an unborn.
- *Please note any circumstances under which we work we always have to consider parental consent.*

Expectations when cases are in our service

- We follow the Working together document.
- All professionals have a duty to children and families.
- Anyone can be a lead professional when a child is on a CIN plan. –***This means anyone can chair a CIN meeting or write minutes this is not just down to the social worker.***
- Cases do not remain on a CIN plan because children are not in education- ***if there is an issue with education the school takes the lead to refer to the Participation team and lead on getting the child back into education and develop a clear education and safety plan whilst that child/ren is in school.***
- We all try to work hard to prevent school exclusions as it always has a negative impact on the young person. We are dealing with the most vulnerable children and school exclusions lead to children getting involved in crime or be exploited.

Expectations when cases are in our service

- The average caseload of a social worker is 25 children this includes CP/CIN/PLO/LAC,
- Attend LAC reviews and PEPs.
- Complete parenting assessments, s47 investigations, Child & family assessments, write core group minutes, conduct home visits CIN-15 days and CP cases 10 days, Graded care profile assessments, s7 & s37 reports are all completed by the social worker.
- Issue care proceedings and complete the initial court statements, arrange contact, other reports to be provided for SGO and adoption.
- Referrals to other agencies, attend meetings, undertake parenting programmes and domestic abuse support.
- Undertake intensive 1-1 work with children, complete risk assessments of families.

Expectations when cases are in our service-consent

- When a child is on any plan whether that is CIN, CP, LAC the Local authority and any professionals involved best practice is to seek consent.
- No professional can override parental consent unless you're the police or a judge.
- CIN is a consent based support despite it being statutory; as s17 support is consent based.
- We do not leave cases open to monitor. The threshold document and continuum of need is used to assess risk of significant harm.
- Closures are decided against the threshold document.
- If parents refuse to give consent whilst a CIN plan is offered the service cannot force families to engage.
- We will escalate if the child is at risk of continued harm. This is done in consultation with the threshold document which is used to establish risk.

Expectations when cases are in our service-legalities

- The only professional that can authorise and convene a legal planning meeting are senior managers in consultation with the social work team.
- We aim to work with all professionals and families- consent and parental responsibility is important as to go against these two factors goes against families Human rights- Right to family life.
- Keeping a family longer on a plan than necessary can be classed as discrimination and oppressive.
- S 20 agreement does not give the Local authority PR.
- S 30/31 gives the Local authority the ability to share PR but we still consult with the parents.
- S 17 is families having access to support but this is consent based.
- S 7 this is private proceedings where parents seek to settled child arrangement issues this does not give the Local authority PR.

Closures, stepping down and referrals

- At point of closure the CIN professionals should agree a lead professional to support the family for a further 6 weeks. This could be school DSL, nursery, or professionals in health.
- Cases can step down to Early help but only if specific work is needed. Support will be provided under a Team around the family (TAF)
- Cases that step down from a CP to CIN should be closed within 12 weeks. If all aspect of the plan was achieved on a CP plan case can be closed at the initial CIN meeting. Or as long as threshold indicates risk has reduced.
- Referrals are made via Hillingdon Stronger families Hub.
- Referrals will require a Child & family assessment to explore the identified concerns.

Thank you

- Any questions