

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.

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| All Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans will describe positive outcomes we are aiming to achieve for the child. 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. The steps being carried out to achieve the outcomes will be expressed in SMART terms. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) 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. 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. | Practitioner |
| Early Help Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Help Support Plans are reviewed at intervals of no more than 6 weeks | Lead Practitioner |
| Child in Need Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child in Need Plans are reviewed at intervals clearly agreed with the Social Worker's line manager but no more than three monthly. 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. | Social Worker |
| Child Protection Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 | Social Worker |



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| | months following the first Conference. More regular meetings may be required, according to the needs and age of the child. | |
| Care Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. At the point of the second review the child must have a permanency plan included in their care plan | Social Worker |
| PEPS (Personal Education Plans) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial PEP meeting must take place within 10 days of a child entering care. Subsequently a PEP meeting must be held every term, three in each academic year. Consideration must be given to holding an additional meeting if a child changes school or placement, or there are concerns about their education. | Social Worker |
| Health Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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 | Social Worker |
| Pathway Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. A young person's Pathway Plan will be reviewed within 3 months and thereafter within a maximum of six months | Social Worker/Young Person Advisor |
| Short Break Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children receiving Short Breaks will have their plans reviewed within 3 months and thereafter within a maximum of six months. Any reduction in frequency is discussed by the SW, line manager and IRO in line with Dudley Children's Services policies and guidance | Social Worker |

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| EHCP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).• The review must be undertaken in partnership with the child/parent/YP, and must take account of their views, wishes and feelings.• 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.• An EHCP may be ceased if:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ YP has achieved all outcomes set and no-longer requires the special educational provision specified in the EHCP.➢ YP is over 16 and leaves to take up paid employment➢ YP enters Higher Education➢ YP is over 18 and no-longer wants to engage in further learning➢ YP moves to another LA➢ End of academic year that they turn 25. | SEND Case Officer |
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