

Protocol for Responding to Challenging Cases who are on the Child Protection Register

Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board	Date: December 2017	Status: Endorsed CTSB December 2017
Author: Challenging Cases Task Group	Previous version: March 2017	Review Date: December 2019

1. PURPOSE

This protocol provides practitioners with guidance on the process to be followed in cases where a Child Protection Care and Support Plan is not reducing the risk to a child or young person. These cases are often referred to as 'stuck' cases.

All staff employed by agencies that are party to this protocol and those who provide services on their behalf, share the responsibility for working with and implementing this protocol.

This document does not replace the current All Wales Child Protection Procedures or the National Protection Procedures (when published) but should be used to provide guidance in identifying and assessing possible risks to children and young people and to reduce the risk of harm to the lowest reasonably foreseeable level.

The risk assessment tools (Appendix 1) are available to support the Child Protection process at any stage and can be used to support this protocol.

2. SCOPE

This protocol will apply to all children living in the Cwm Taf area (Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil) who are on the Child Protection register where the Child Protection Care and Support Plan is not reducing the risk.

This will include Cwm Taf Children who are Looked After who are on the Child Protection register whether they are placed within Cwm Taf or in another local authority area. The management of children placed in Cwm Taf from out of county is subject to a separate piece of work. As this is a Cwm Taf protocol any issues around engagement from agencies outside of Cwm Taf will be escalated to the appropriate partner agency of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board.

This protocol can be applied at any stage during the Child Protection process, at any point of involvement and regardless of the length of time the child has been on the register. This protocol should be automatically initiated once a child has been on the register for a continuous period of 15 months.

This protocol does not apply to Children with a Care and Support Plan where any escalating concerns should be dealt with under the Child Protection processes. Similarly, if there are rapidly escalating concerns for a child that require an urgent response to an immediate risk then this should be dealt with under the existing or usual normal emergency procedures.

This protocol will therefore enhance and not replace the procedures to be followed as part of the Child Protection processes.

3. PROCESS FOR CWM TAF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

If the Child Protection Care and Support Plan for a child or young person on the Child Protection Register is not reducing the risk then the challenging cases process can be initiated by:

- any professional involved in the case; or
- the Core Group; or
- an automatic trigger following the third review conference or 15 months on the register, whichever is earliest.

Professionals can escalate concerns to the senior safeguarding manager within their organisation and request that a Tier 1 Professional Review is initiated.

If the senior safeguarding manager agrees that the plan is not reducing the risk then he/she will ensure that this request is sent to the Children Services Team Manager responsible for the case.

The Team Manager will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the Tier 1 meeting is held within 10 working days of the request.

Tier 1 - Professional Review

The Tier 1 Meeting

1. Convene a meeting for the professionals involved in the Core Group and their line managers (see Tier 1 list - Appendix 2). The meeting should not include the family.
2. Consideration will also be given to inviting a representative from the local authority's legal department and a police representative if there is significant involvement.
3. The meeting will be chaired by the Children Services Team Manager and a set agenda will be followed (Appendix 3), to include:
 - Review the Child Protection Care and Support Plan and the completed/reviewed assessments, as well as any specialist assessments (see list - Appendix 1).
 - Consider the Cwm Taf Multi Agency Protocol On Working With Non-Cooperative Families
 - Ensure that the IRO and the parents are updated during the process

Outcome of Tier 1 Meeting

The agreed outcome of the Tier 1 Professional Review should be one of the following:

1. Risks to be managed by revised Plan - the Plan should then be reconsidered at the Core Group, chaired by the Team Manager, after a maximum period of 6 weeks. If the interventions have reduced the risk then the case should be closed to Challenging Cases. If there has been no change then Tier 2 should be initiated.
2. Reconvene CP or CLA conference - to focus on identifying any barriers to change and looking at how the Plan can be changed to reduce or better manage the risk.
3. Escalate to Tier 2 and/or initiate legal process. A Tier 1 meeting must be held before escalating to Tier 2.
4. Escalate to Tier 3 in cases where the risk is clearly very serious/significant

Monitoring and Reporting

- The Chair of the Tier 1 meeting will report the outcome to the Children Services Principal/Service Manager and the IRO using the template in Appendix 4
- The local authority performance management team will report to the Cwm Taf Quality Assurance and Standards Sub Group (QASG) on the number of Tier 1 meetings being held and develop a trigger for review after 6 months

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy Meetings

In relation to cases that are subject to CSE and are on the Child Protection Register, the CSE Strategy Meeting can be combined with the Tier 1 Professional Review only when the attendees listed in Appendix 1 of this protocol are present.

Tier 2 - Senior Professional Review

The Tier 2 Meeting

- The Team Manager should convene a meeting, within 10 working days of the referral to Tier 2, for the professionals in the Core Group. The meeting should be chaired by a Service/Principal Manager (Tier 2 list attached in Appendix 1). Consider inviting a police and legal representative.

- The agenda for Tier 1 should be followed.

Outcome of Tier 2 Meeting

The agreed outcome of the Tier 2 Senior Professional Review should be one of the following:

1. Risks to be managed by revised Plan - the Plan should then be reconsidered at the Core Group, chaired by the Service/Principal Manager, after a maximum period of 6 weeks. If the interventions have reduced the risk then the case should be closed to Challenging Cases. If there has been no change then Tier 3 should be initiated.
2. Reconvene CP or CLA conference - to focus on identifying any barriers to change and looking at how the Plan can be changed to reduce or better manage the risk.
3. Escalate to Tier 3 and request that a Multi-Agency Supervision Event is convened. A Tier 2 meeting must be held before escalating to Tier 3.

Monitoring and Reporting

- The Chair of the Tier 2 meeting will report the outcome to the Service Manager and the IRO using the report template in Appendix 4.
- If escalating to Tier 3, the Chair of the Tier 2 meeting will submit a referral (using the report template in Appendix 4) to QASG via the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Unit.

Tier 3 - Multi Agency Supervision Event.

Following a decision at Tier 2, the Business Unit will liaise with the QASG Chair to arrange the Multi Agency Supervision event and to identify the key safeguarding professionals who will be invited to attend.

The Chair of QASG will identify the appropriate facilitators who will be independent of the case. A pool of appropriately experienced facilitators have been identified which includes individuals who have undertaken Child Practice Reviews, learning /practitioner events and group supervision.

The focus of the event will be to support the practitioners in reflecting on the current situation and the current Child Protection Care and Support Plan. It will be undertaken in an environment that provide safe, professional support and professional challenge, with a clear set of working principles or processes so that staff know what to expect and the confidentiality of any case material is respected.

A facilitator meeting will be held before and after the Multi-Agency Supervision event to prepare, to de-brief and to identify and allocate actions within appropriate timescales.

The event will use the same processes for learning as used in a child practice review. The event will be expected to involve:

- A presentation of the case and the areas of concern
- A facilitated discussion with attendees to reflect on the case, examining and analysing key issues
- Assessments, decision making and practice to be explored openly amongst staff
- Agree actions as appropriate

All professionals involved in the process must be made aware that the record of these sessions could be used as evidence in future court applications in relation to safeguarding children.

If any issues relating to individual staff training needs or staff malpractice emerge during the course of the event, these should be directed to and managed through the relevant agency's own HR procedures.

Following the Multi-Agency Supervision event, an outcome report will be completed by the facilitators and presented to the next QASG meeting. The report will indicate what actions have been set and will enable QASG to monitor the process. A copy of this report must be placed on the child's file and shared at the next core group or child protection conference (which ever comes first) to inform the planning.

Any practice learning emerging from the event may be disseminated more widely to staff and should inform the Board's Annual Report.

Appendix 1

List of assessment tools that can inform the Child Protection Care and Support Plan:

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Framework (MARAF) tool
SERAF assessment
CSE Strategy Meetings guidance
Neglect Tool
Risky Behaviour Tool
Chronology table
DASH assessment
IFST assessment
PAMS assessment
Parenting assessment
Vulnerability and Resilience Tool (Health)
RIC assessment
AIM2 assessment
Schools Risk Assessment
Safety Plan (Barnardo's)

Visit www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org to access these documents

Appendix 2

Tier 1 List - to be invited in addition to Core Group members

Children Services Team Manager
Safeguarding Lead (School) or Head Teacher
Health Visitor Safeguarding Supervisor
Police Sergeant
Probation Team Manager
CRC Team Manager
Adult Services Team Manager (Health)
Adult Services Team Manager (Social Care)
Legal Rep (if appropriate)

Tier 2 List

Tier 1 List (above)
Children Services - Service Manager/Principal Manager
Police Inspector

Appendix 3

CTSCB Challenging Cases - Tier 1 Professional Review

AGENDA TEMPLATE

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Summary of the case and the presenting issues
3. Summary and review of partners' involvement to date (including a review of Care and Support Plan and any assessments undertaken)
4. Analysis of risks, protective factors, parents ability to change (to include consideration of the Cwm Taf Multi Agency Protocol On Working With Non-Cooperative Families)
5. Agree outcome and any actions/timescales (update Care and Support Plan)
6. Agree on communications with the family

**Tier 1/Tier 2 (delete as appropriate) Professional Review
Report of Meeting**

DATE		TIME		VENUE	
-------------	--	-------------	--	--------------	--

FAMILY DETAILS:

Name	Address	DOB	Relationship to child/young person
			SUBJECT

1. IN ATTENDANCE:

Name	Agency / Involvement

2. SUMMARY OF THE CASE AND PRESENTING ISSUES BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED:

3. SUMMARY OF PARTNERS' INVOLVEMENT TO DATE:

4. ANALYSIS OF RISKS, PROTECTIVE FACTORS, PARENTS ABILITY TO CHANGE:

5. AGREE OUTCOME AND ACTIONS/TIMESCALES

6. AGREE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE FAMILY

Appendix 5 - Challenging Cases Process

