

# Child Protection Plans

A Child Protection Plan is a working tool that should enable the family and professionals to understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others. The aims of the plan are:-

- To keep the child safe and prevent further harm
- To promote the child's welfare
- If it is in the child's best interests and can be done safely, to support their family (and wider family) to care for them

## Effective Child Protection Plans should:

- Describe the identified developmental needs of the child and what therapeutic services are required
- Include specific, achievable, child focused outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child
- Include realistic strategies and specific actions to achieve planned outcomes
- Include a contingency plan to be followed if circumstances change significantly and require prompt action
- Clearly identify roles and responsibilities of professionals and family members, including the nature and frequency of contact by professionals with children and families members
- Lay down points at which progress will be reviewed and the means by which progress will be assessed and
- Set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of those professionals with routine contact with the child - e.g. Health Visitors, GP's etc - as well as those professionals providing specialist or targeted support to the child and family

# Glossary of Terms

*Old:* Child's name is on the Child Protection Register

*New:* The child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan

*Old:* Enquiry to the Custodian of the Child Protection Register

*New:* Child Protection Plan Enquiry

*Old:* Category of registration

*New:* Category of abuse or neglect

*Old:* Deregistration

*New:* Discontinuation of a Child Protection Plan

*Old:* Length of time on the Register

*New:* Duration of the Child Protection Protection Plan

*Old:* Custodian to the Register

*New:* Designated Manager for Child Protection Plans

*Old:* Date of registration

*New:* Date child became the subject of a Child Protection Plan

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## Child Protection Plans

*Important information for Professionals*



This leaflet outlines important changes to Sunderland's Child Protection Register - from the 1st April 2008 Sunderland will no longer use the term "Child Protection Register". Where a Child Protection Conference decides a child is at risk of continuing significant harm the child will be the "subject of a Child Protection Plan"

## What will change?

From April 1st 2008 Sunderland Children's Services will no longer keep a "Child Protection Register". If an Initial Child Protection Conference or Review Conference decides a child is suffering significant harm they will agree the child will be the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

Appropriate workers will still be able to check if a child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan by contacting the **Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit on 0191 5661612. Out of Hours Service 0191 5289110.**

This change is in line with the Government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)

This change is being made to focus families and workers on the Child Protection Plan and the day to day actions everyone needs to take to safeguard the child.

Sunderland Local Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children Procedures contain the detail and action required in respect of working with a child who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan. The Procedures can be found at:-

[www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/p](http://www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/p)

## What will stay the same?

All the duties described in guidance and legislation remain, including:

For all workers and volunteers

- Being able to recognise and report a child who may be suffering harm through abuse or neglect
- Listening to children and their parents
- Assisting Children's Services Social Care in any enquiries about a child who may be suffering harm
- Knowing when to share information to safeguard any child
- Knowing how to escalate concerns if you think another agency's response is inadequate
- Being open and honest with children and their families and listening to their views, including considering any cultural differences
- Arranging for interpretation, translation and other services to enable everyone to participate in the safeguarding process
- Contributing to core assessment on any child who may be suffering harm in line with the Framework for Assessment (2000)



## If you are working with a child who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan

- Know what the Child Protection Plan says and what actions you are responsible for
- Attend core groups and contribute towards the development and implementation of the Child Protection Plan
- Know who the key worker is and how to contact them
- Implement any policies and procedures that you would have used for children previously described as being "on the Child Protection Register"
- See the child at agreed intervals
- Report any concerns you have about the child, or your ability to progress the Child Protection Plan, to the key worker immediately
- Attend all Initial Child Protection Conferences and Child Protection Review Conferences with a written report that you have discussed with the family prior to the meeting