

Child Protection Resolution Process

This process is intended to standardise the communication when Child Protection Chairs or Social Work teams are concerned about case management issues, progress with the child protection plan or an escalation of risk.

It is always expected that the least formal approach will be taken but the process indicates the steps that can be taken if progress is not made and/or if the right conversations are not happening. If the concerns indicate that the child/children are at immediate risk of significant harm the appropriate action needs to take place and each stage need not be followed in sequence.

Pre-conference preparation

The work that happens before the meeting is vital to ensuring that the meeting is restorative and the family are in the very best position to fully participate. The following issues will be considered by the SW and the Chair and feedback given about any issues / difficulties. These will also be looked at in the QA form

Appropriate invite list / Child care arrangements in place / Referral for an advocate made/ Interpreter arranged / Report shared with family

Expectation that the Social Work Team Manager will ensure that the statutory tasks will have been undertaken prior to the Initial Conference or Review Conference – Core groups / statutory visits

On the Social Worker's review report for conference the Team Manager should indicate that these tasks have been completed or if they could not be (e.g. due to parental non engagement) that the reasons are briefly recorded.

Concerns about progress of the plan or escalation of risk

The CP Chair and the Social Worker responsible for managing the Child Protection Plan should have a phone conversation and reach some agreement about what the issues / concerns are and any actions that need to take place to address these. It would be expected that the Social Worker would alert the chair to an escalation of risk.

Conference chair should record this on Frameworki– 'ISU case discussion' and send an alert to the Social Worker and Team Manager

If the concern is about a practice issue the Team manager should be alerted and the expectation is that the Team Manager will follow this up as appropriate – it may be appropriate to give feedback to the chair

Request for case discussion 'CD1'

If no resolution (or if communication has not happened) and the concerns remain these should be briefly outlined in an email to the named Team Manager with a copy to the Social Worker requesting a case discussion or a meeting if this would be more helpful

This will be headed - '**Request for case discussion CD1**'

There is an expectation that the Team Manager will respond to this email within 5 working days
A summary of this discussion should be recorded on Frameworki – 'ISU case discussion – CD1'

Request for case discussion 'CD2'

If no resolution and the concerns remain these should be briefly outlined in an email to the Service Delivery Manager with a copy to the Team Manager requesting a meeting. This meeting should be chaired by a Service Delivery Manager.

This will be headed - '**Request for case discussion CD2**'

There is an expectation that the Service Delivery Manager will respond to this email within 5 working days
A summary of this discussion / meeting should be recorded on Frameworki – 'ISU case discussion – CD2'

Notify Head of Service

If no resolution and the concerns following the meeting chaired by the Service Delivery Manager, the Heads of Service (from CSWS and ISU) should be informed of the situation and be made aware of the key issues that remain unresolved.

A meeting will be arranged to look at options for progressing the situation.

A summary of this meeting should be recorded on Frameworki – 'ISU case discussion – Head of Service'

Referral to the LSCB

See LSCB procedures' 2.9 'resolving professional disagreements'

If professional disagreements remain unresolved, the matter must be referred to the LSCB representative for each agency involved

In the unlikely event that the issues is not resolved and/or discussions raise significant policy issues it should be referred to the Safeguarding Children Board Manager who will determine a course of action including reporting to the LSCB chair