Legal Planning Meeting Agenda

**Child/ren name:**

**Gender:**

**DOB/EDD:**

**Family Profile:**

*Provide systemic/cultural genogram.*

*Include unrelated people who live in the household.*

*Include people the children have a significant relationship with.*

*State where the children currently reside and where they are currently living if different.*

**Date of meeting:**

**Present for meeting:**

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| **Name** | **Team** | Chair |
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**Document to be provided before the meeting:**

*C&F assessment Chronology*

*3 generation genogram*

# Discussion & Questions:

**What do we know?**

* Does the C&F assessment provide adequate background information about this family and clear analysis?
* Have there been previous care proceedings and what do the assessments from any previous proceedings tell us about current parenting?
* What has the child told us through direct work and observations
* Feedback from professional partners

**What is going well?**

* What are the family’s strengths?
* What support have Children & Family services offered?
* What has kept the Local Authority out of proceedings so far?

**Why now?**

* What has happened recently that has increased risk or reduced the protective factors in this family?
* Has a Family Group Conference taken place to explore the support the extended family or friends can offer? Does this support help to sufficiently manage the current risk?
* If the family situation has changed, what needs to be different to return the family back to a position of “safe uncertainty”?
  + Is there somewhere else the family could be that would make them safer, such as a refuge or staying with another family member?
  + Is there another parent who can provide safe care?
  + Is there someone who can stay with the family to reduce the risk?
  + Would the risk to the children be reduced if they were with another family member? How could that be achieved and would there need to be restriction in place? (need to ensure that a private family arrangement is not converted to S.20 through restrictions on the parents)
* Timescale of the child/ren
  + Developmental stages
  + Attachment needs
  + Need for security, stability and permanency
  + Important dates in the near future, school moves, etc.
* What support can Children & Families services provide to help manage the current risk?
* Why can’t the risk be managed under the current plan?

**Contribution of partners**

* Is there information that partners know about the children and family that helps us understand and manage risk?
* Do our partners have information that might help us in our decision making?

**Parents Capacity**

* Do the parents have access to advocacy services?
* Are there any capacity, language, accessibility issues?
* If the parents have provided good enough care before, what has changed now?

Under the *Mental Capacity Act 2005* test, parents must be able to:

* understand the information relevant to the decision including information about the reasonably foreseeable consequence of either deciding one way or the other or failing to make the decision
* retain that information
* use or weigh that information as part of the process of making the decision
* communicate their decision

**Family views**

* Views of the parents
* Children’s views
  + What do they tell us about their lived experience?
  + What would the child/ren like to happen and is there any reason why this can’t be progressed?
* Views of extended family or other significant people

**What would be different?**

* What do you want to change?
* How would the child’s life be different if we progress to PLO or to issuing?
* What would the plan be if we progress to PLO or to issuing?
* What order would be applied for and with what objective?

# Decision and reasoning:

**Actions and timescales Remain on current plan**

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| **Action** | **By Who** | **Timescale** |
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**Decision to progress to PLO**

Date social worker will send PLO letter to legal services? Date PLO letter will be sent to parents? Date of 1st PLO meeting with parents? (2 weeks from receiving the PLO letter)

If the parents can’t meet together:

Date of 1st PLO meeting with Mother? Date of 1st PLO meeting with Father? Frequency of PLO meeting with parent/s? Date of SM mid-way review? (8 weeks after 1st PLO meeting with parents).

(If parents have separate meetings then 8 weeks is counted from the day both parents have had their 1st PLO meeting)

Date PLO should end? (16 from 1st PLO meeting with parents)

(If parents have separate meetings then 16 weeks is counted from the day both parents have had their 1st PLO meeting)

Do we need any expert assessments? If not why not?

**Other actions**

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| **Action** | **By Who** | **Timescale** |
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**Decision to issue**

Where is it proposed that the child will live through the duration of the proceedings?

Are there any key dates or significant events in the life of the child that will need to be taken into account and planned for?

*e.g. birthdays, cultural/religious events, school calendar…*

When will the child spend time with their family and other people in their network? How will this be supported?

What are the key questions that need to be considered to enable the Court to come to a decision regarding the long-term care plan for the child?

What assessments will be needed to help answer the questions above?

* Parent
* Child
* Sibling relationships
* Viability and full assessments of kinship network - which family members will be prioritised and why?

Is there a need for expert or specialist multi-disciplinary assessment to help answer these questions that cannot be provided by the Local Authority? If so, how will these be resourced?

What are the timescales for:

* SM mid-way review
* Panel request
* C110

**>**  Statement

* Care plan?

**Next Steps**

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| **Action** | **By Who** | **Timescale** |
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