

Practice Reminder - Strategy discussions and High Risk Planning Meetings

Introduction

This practice reminder is being written to clarify the risk management processes for young people open to Gloucestershire Childrens social care and clarify when a strategy discussion and High Risk Planning Meeting should be held and the differences between them.

Child protection procedures – Strategy Discussion

Child Protection procedures are well understood and rehearsed across the service and partnership. If a child is deemed to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm a strategy discussion needs to be held. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) clearly sets out the procedures and expectations – these can be found on TriX

<https://gloucestershirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/contents.html>

The status of the child does not affect this - Strategy Discussions are held for children under the age of 18 years who are children in need, children subject to child protection planning, children in care and relevant young people.

If an investigation under section 47 CA 1989 deems a child or young person to be at continuing risk of significant harm then

- a) If the child is a child in need then an initial child protection case conference is required.
- b) If the child is already subject to child protection planning then the core group will consider the on going risk and the child protection plan will be reviewed and updated. (Management oversight required).
- c) If the child is already a child in care then the child's care plan needs to be reviewed and updated. If the risk is on going for example risks through exploitation then a decision is needed to ascertain if a high risk planning meeting is needed to oversee the risk management (to act similar to a core group for a child subject to child protection planning).

High Risk Planning Meeting (HRPM)

Following a S47 investigation for a child in care a young person's CIC care plan needs to be reviewed and a stand alone risk assessment completed. A young person's view of the risk should be central to this review and assessment. A HRPM is a multi agency forum which meets monthly with the young person to consider the risks and develop a plan that increases a young person's safety and mitigates risk factors.

An HRPM does not replace the need for a strategy discussion. They serve different purposes. A HRPM needs to be seen as similar to a core group for a child in care.