




Cheshire West  
and Chester

# Children and Young People's Services

Care Orders and Child Protection Plans  
Children in Care

POLICY/PROCEDURE APPROVAL			
Approved By		Position	
Signature		Date Approved	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2012
Post Responsible for Reviewing	Senior Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers Children and Young People Services	Date to be Reviewed	September 2014

# **POLICY INFORMATION SHEET**

Name of Document	Care orders and child protection plans – Children in Care
Reference Number	CIC
Service area	Children in Care and Care Leavers Service, Children & Family Services Department
Target Audience	All Staff in Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Children and Family Services Department
Forum Policy/Procedure/Strategy was approved	Children and Families Services Senior Management Team
Date policy is effective from	March 2012
Date of last review	
Date next review due	March 2013
Status: Mandatory (all named staff must adhere to guidance) Optional (procedures and practice can vary between teams)	Mandatory
Location of Document	CWAC Intranet
Related document(s)	The Children Act 1089 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 Children in Care policies and procedures Child in Need policies and procedures HSCB Policies and Procedures
Superseded document(s)	
Responsible officer(s)	
Any other relevant information	

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The decision that a child is no longer in need of a child protection plan can be made
- At a Child Protection Review Conference
  - When a Conference Chair or Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is notified that the child is the subject of an Interim Care Order or a Care Order.

## **2 INTERIM CARE ORDERS AND CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS**

- 2.1 If the child is already the subject of a child protection plan which results in legal action being taken and an Interim Care Order being made, it is not necessary to reconvene a Child Protection Conference as the future protection of the child will be managed through the Child in Care planning and review systems [ref: Practice Guidance 12: Pre-birth Child Protection Conferences and Reviews.
- 2.2 In these instances the Conference Chair will write to conference members to inform them that the Child Protection Plan will be ending in 10 working days if no objection is received.
- 2.3 Should a court not renew an interim Care Order or eventually decide not to make a Care Order and the child is returned to the parents, a Child Protection conference might need to be considered to discuss the risk to the child at that time and to decide whether a child protection plan is necessary.

## **3 CARE ORDERS AND CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS**

- 3.1 Once a care order is made, it would normally be inappropriate for the child to continue with a Child Protection Plan as this would indicate a degree of risk inconsistent with the Directorate's duty to safeguard the welfare of the child.

### **PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

- If it is assessed that an inter-agency child protection plan continues to be necessary to safeguard the child's welfare, then the suitability of the placement should be seriously questioned
- Where the child is returned home (or remains at home) under the Interim/Care Order as part of a rehabilitation plan, or until parents/carers obtain other Section 8 Orders, Special Guardianship Orders or Connected Persons Assessment which will offer the child long term protection, all exceptions should be time limited and renewed within statutory timescales [ref: Placement with Parents Policy]
- Consideration should be given to the IRO chairing the child protection conference where a child in care remains subject to a Child Protection Plan. Where this is not possible it will be expected that the IRO will attend the child protection review conference