



Messages for practice:

Tips for Multi-Agency Core Group members

Aim of Leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to make clear the roles and responsibilities of all Core Group members throughout the period a child has a Child Protection (Care and Support) Plan.

Once the decision at a Child Protection Conference has been made to add a child's name to the Child Protection Register, the outline Child Protection Plan will be developed and Core Group members identified. The Core Group will then meet within 10 working days after the Child Protection Conference and every 4-6 weeks until the child is de-registered.

The Task of the Core Group

The task of Core Group is to develop and implement the Child Protection Plan by clearly identifying risk to the child and what needs to change in order to reduce those risks. The Child Protection Plan must clearly identify the outcomes which are to be achieved and the Core Group must measure progress against these outcomes within a timescale for completion.

Membership of the Core Group

The Core Group should include significant family members, including the child (if appropriate) and / or the child's advocate (if the child chooses to be supported / represented), a key worker who is a Social Worker and all professionals who have significant involvement with the family i.e. those working with both the child and significant adults.

Membership of the Core Group may change as new agencies become involved with the family. When new members join, the Chair of the Core Group should ensure that they are fully informed of the progress of the case to date and the historic overview. The new member should take responsibility to ensure they have had sight of the previous conference reports. An updated multi-agency chronology can help with this.

All members of the Core Group have equal ownership of, and responsibility for, the Child Protection Plan and should work together to achieve its outcomes.

Attendance at a Core Group is essential. Child Practice Reviews stress the importance of maintaining a consistent membership of Core Group. If you cannot attend you should send a representative from your agency. This person must be appropriately briefed and have the right knowledge to enable them to engage with the process which will include feeding back the information to you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are updated of any outcomes or actions from the meeting.

The contribution you can make will depend upon the Child Protection Plan and your level of involvement with the child and family. Research tells us that Child Protection Planning works best when we work in partnership with children and families.

The Core Group should:

- Any member of the Core Group can take the role of Chairperson or minute-taker.
- Appoint a Chairperson. The AWCPP advocates it is good practice to separate the role of key working and chairing the core group.
- Agree the frequency of contact with the child and family and by whom.
- Work together to ensure that all required assessments are completed on time and that all Core Group members contribute and have sight of these documents.
- Ensure all professionals, parents/carers and child, where appropriate, have a copy of the Child Protection Plan.
- Assess progress of the Plan and make adjustments where necessary.
- Ensure that all professionals, parents/carers and child, where appropriate, clearly understand what is expected of them in implementing the plan.
- Record minutes of Core Group meetings. Minutes should be circulated to Core Group members within 5 working days.
- Focus on the child's need for safe and emotionally secure care, and whether changes made can be sustained in order to achieve this.
- Decide on a contingency plan if family members do not co-operate with the plan.

Escalation Process

If there are concerns related to the effectiveness of the Child Protection Plan (CPP) such as:

- The CPP is not effective in reducing the risk of harm or there is an increased risk of harm.
- There is a failure to obtain the co-operation of parents/carers or child in working on the plan. For further guidance please see the following web link to the 'Working with Hostile and Uncooperative Parents' Protocol:

[http://www.sewsc.org.uk/fileadmin/sewsc/documents/regional/SEWSCB_Working_with_Hostile_and_Uncooperative Parents.pdf](http://www.sewsc.org.uk/fileadmin/sewsc/documents/regional/SEWSCB_Working_with_Hostile_and_Uncooperative_Parents.pdf)

- Changed or unforeseen circumstances.

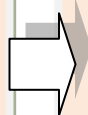


These should be discussed with the Key Worker/Social Worker and a decision made regarding the need to implement further actions. Referral for Multi-Agency supervision could be considered.

http://www.sewsc.org.uk/fileadmin/sewsc/documents/regional/SEWSCB_Multi-Agency_Supervision_Guidance_-_revised_2016.pdf

If there are concerns related to the effectiveness of the function of the Core Group, such as:

- Difficulties implementing the CPP due to disagreements among professionals.
- Core Group members not carrying out his/her responsibilities outlined in the CPP.
- Continual absence from Core Group meetings by members.
- Failure to provide information at Core Groups.
- Delay and drift with the CPP.



- Discuss with Key Worker/Social Worker and their Manager.
- Discussion between Core Group members.
- Involvement of relevant managers/designated Safeguarding professionals within agencies, where issues remain unresolved.

- Consider implementing Resolving Professional Differences Protocol
<http://www.sewsc.org.uk/index.php?id=40>
- Consider Multi-Agency Supervision.
http://www.sewsc.org.uk/fileadmin/sewsc/documents/regional/SEWSCB_Multi-Agency_Supervision_Guidance_-_revised_2016.pdf

Ref: All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008

http://www.sewsc.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/All_Wales_Child_Protection_Procedures_2008_1_.pdf

Safeguarding Children Working Together under the Children Act 2014, Welsh Assembly Government 2006

<https://socialcare.wales/hub/sswbact-codes>