

Edge of Care Panel

1. Purpose of Panel

- 1.1 To ensure the safety and welfare of children where risks have escalated and they are considered to be on the 'edge of care'.
- 1.2 To consider resources available to enable the child to remain safely within their family.
- 1.3 Reduce drift and delay in care planning.
- 1.4 Scrutinise and challenge unplanned admissions to care.
- 1.5 Ensure children are returned home promptly when it is safe to do so.
- 1.6 Maintain and review consistent thresholds for resource allocation.

2. Membership

- Head of Safeguarding and Family Support, or Deputy Head of Safeguarding and Family Support (in accordance with the rota).
- Children's Services Access to Recourses Team Manager
- Virtual School Representative
- Family Group Conference Manager
- Panel Administrator
- Children's Services Finance Officer
- Intensive Adolescent Support Team Manager

3. Panel Criteria

- 3.1 All Children in need or likely to need a LAC Placement will require presentation at panel for any placement decision to be agreed.
- 3.2 Where additional resources are required to ensure children can remain safe at home.
- 3.3 All children placed as a result of an emergency will be presented to the **next** scheduled edge of care Panel meeting.
- 3.4 Where a child has been placed as a result of an EPO the care plan and placement will be considered within the required LPM.
- 3.5 Panel meetings will take place weekly on a Thursday between 11:00 and 13:00.

4. Panel Process

- 4.1 A decision to present cases to the Edge of Care Panel needs to be agreed by the Team Manager with their respective line Manager, eg DHoS or HoS.
- 4.2 Once agreement is sought the allocated social worker will complete the Edge of Care Referral Form with Team Manager's oversight and submit to the panel Officer along relevant supporting documents by Monday 1pm:
 - Most recent Child and Family Assessment (completed within the last 6 months)
 - Chronology

- Current Plan, CP, CiN or LAC (updated within the last 6 months)
- Any other professional assessment

4.3 The Panel Officer will review the request with the Chair to confirm that:

- The Edge of Care criteria has been met
- Referral form has been submitted and is completed to the expected standard.
- Supporting documentation as listed in 4.2 has been submitted.
- Referral Authorisation has been given by relevant HoS.

4.4 The Panel Officer will book the presentation at the Edge of Care Panel ensuring that to the allocated SW and TM are notified of the time and location.

4.5 The Panel Officer will prepare and circulate the agenda to all panel members by Tuesday end of business. This will include:

- Report of current in-house fostering vacancies
- A Review of starters and leavers, inc. current LAC figure.
- Case Tracker for cases requiring Edge of Care Panel review.

5. Panel Attendance

5.1 The allocated social worker and their line manager **must** attend the panel. Social workers should only attend panel without their line manager in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement from the panel chair.

6. Scheduled Reviews

6.1 The Panel may make a decision for a case to be reviewed by the panel, this may occur where:

- A placement was agreed for a time limited period.
- A placement was not agreed and the panel wishes to review the plan for the child.

6.2 The Panel Officer will maintain a panel decision tracker and ensure that all cases that require a panel review are tracked and review slots are scheduled for the social worker and line manager to present and update the panel.

7. Panel Administration and Information Governance

7.1 The Panel Officer will ensure that all papers are circulated to panel members by Tuesday end of business via email and will ensure hard copies are available for the **Chair only**. It is the responsibility of panel members to bring hard copies should they wish to refer to them during the meeting.

7.2 All hard copies of papers will be collected by the Panel Officer at the end of the meeting and disposed of in the confidential waste.

7.3 Electronic copies of panel referrals and associated decision sheets will be recorded on the individual child's FWi record by the allocated social worker.

8. Monitoring and Review

8.1 A Bi annual review meeting to be held with all chairs and panel members in attendance, to include:

- Profiling LAC admissions by age and circumstance
- Forecast on prevention spend
- Review the impact of prevention packages
- Practice related themes issues
- External challenge of Panel functions to be provided by Quality Assurance Team.

8.2 Quality Assurance to undertake an observation of the panel process bi-annually four weeks preceding the Bi Annual Panel Review Meeting and to include a dip sample of cases and decision making in preceding 6 months.