

PLO TIMELINE

The Child Protection Conference timeline in terms of concerns and procedures has not changed. This timeline just addresses the issues as they relate to the PLO process. This is in recognition that in many instances PLO processes start earlier than 6-8 months after CP plan and in some instances is initiated prior to a CP Plan being made.

	Process	Action by the team/LA
Pre - PLO	<p>What new assessments etc do we need – what do we not know?</p> <p>Legal Planning Meeting Possible outcomes of LPM: Is threshold met for PLO? Or is there a decision for an immediate application needed to the court? Or if threshold is not met then continue with an updated child plan.</p>	<p>SW and TM to complete the checklist within the LPM format and arrange the LPM – all papers to be sent to LA solicitor prior to the LPM.</p> <p>Assessments to be considered: attend CSPIN to request outreach/PCA/shortened PCA/graded care plan. Letter of instruction or questions (if PCA being carried out by current SW) to be considered.</p>
	<p>Letter before Proceedings agreed between the Team Manager and local authority solicitor.</p> <p>Agreement that LA seeks with family to be considered so that it is available for the PLO meeting.</p>	<p>Team Manager sends a Letter before Proceedings to the parents outlining the concerns and proposing a date for the meeting.</p> <p>The list of Solicitors who specialise in family matters is enclosed with the letter.</p> <p>Written Agreement for the PLO meeting to be completed.</p>
Week 1 1st PLO meeting	<p>PLO meeting with the parents and all legal representatives.</p> <p>The Written Agreement will be amended and used as a record of the meeting by the SW team and distributed to legal representatives by the LA solicitor. Date agreed for the review PLO meeting.</p>	<p>Family Group Conference/family meeting to be arranged if not already held.</p> <p>Obtain names of family and friends for Viability Assessments which the SW will complete.</p> <p>Other specialist assessments could be: Graded Care Profile/Neglect Strategy/ADAM project/Psychological or Psychiatric assessments if required.</p>
Weeks 2 - 7	<p>Assessments and work with family will continue and a FGC will be held if this has not already been held as part of the Child Protection Conference process.</p>	<p>If there are positive Viability Assessments SW team to attend Placement Panel for advice. Referral to Fostering service for a full assessment.</p>
6 - 8 weeks Mid-point review of PLO	<p>This meeting should take place whether progress has been made or not.</p> <p>The Written Agreement will be amended and used as a record of the meeting by the SW team and distributed to legal representatives by the LA solicitor.</p> <p>Date agreed for the final PLO meeting.</p>	<p>If progress is good – should PLO continue? Assessments to be reviewed and followed up. If these have not started – what is the revised plan?</p> <p>Begin to care plan for the child (e.g. what is needed to remain at home? Or family and friends, or LT fostering, or adoption).</p> <p>Liaison with LAC service to advise them of case and to arrange an Early Care Planning meeting – CIN and LAC.</p> <p>SW to complete the Sibling checklist if necessary. Team Manager to have a discussion with the local authority solicitor as to the way forward.</p>

Weeks 8 - 12	Plan reviewed and explained.	Outcome of assessments should now be known including any Viability Assessments completed on friends and/or family. SW team to attend Placement Panel for agreement to issue care proceedings
No later than 12 - 16 weeks Final PLO meeting	This meeting is to exit the PLO or issue proceedings because: Progress has been made and the PLO is no longer appropriate as threshold is no longer met. If little progress and threshold is met – LA to issue care proceedings.	Team Manager to write the PLO exit letter in preparation for the PLO exit meeting, and to be given and explained to the parents at the meeting. If proceedings are to be issued, refer to LAC. Referral to be made to the fostering service for a placement for the child/ren.
1st Hearing		LAC to be present at the 1st hearing, transfer to take place asap and within a week. LAC SW to arrange a Permanency Planning Meeting to be held within 4 weeks of the 1 st hearing.