

Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group

Glossary of Terms

The following definitions are offered to help make sense of common terms and phrases within the safeguarding children arena

Term	Definition
CAFCASS	<p>The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) looks after the interests of children involved in family proceedings. It works with children and their families, and then advises the courts on what it considers to be in the children's best interests. CAFCASS only works in the family courts. Examples of matters that may be taken to family courts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when parents who are separating or divorcing can't agree on arrangements for their children; • an adoption application; • when children are subject to an application for care or supervision proceedings by Children's Services <p>Social workers employed by CAFCASS are appointed as Family Court Advisors (FCAs).</p>
Care/in Care	<p>When a child is looked after by the local authority and is the subject of an interim or full care order made by a court in accordance with Section 31 Children Act 1989, the local authority shares parental responsibility with any other person who already has parental responsibility.</p> <p>When a child is subject to an interim care order the degree to which the parental responsibility is shared is determined by the court.</p> <p>When a full care order is made the local authority is able to decide how far and in what ways the parent can exercise their parental responsibility and thus is in control of the arrangements of the child.</p> <p>See also "Looked After"</p>
Care Order (CO)	<p>A statutory order made under Section 31(1) of the Children Act, placing the child in the care of the Local Authority. The Local Authority shares parental responsibility with the parent.</p>
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	<p>Specialise multi-disciplinary team to provide assessment and treatment for children and young people with emotional/mental health issues.</p>
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	<p>The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a function of Local Safeguarding Children Boards from April 2008. Requires involved professionals, working together in a co-ordinated way, to review all child deaths in their area. Unexpected child deaths will undergo a more intensive review process. The findings to be used to inform strategic</p>

	planning to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Child in Need (CiN)	<p>A child who is assessed by the local authority as being in need of services as a result of the child being disabled OR in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a reasonable standard of health or development • Prevent the child's health or development from being impaired <p>(Section 17(10) Children Act 1989).</p>
Child Protection Plan (CPP)	A multi-agency plan which is in place in relation to any child who is considered to be at continuing risk of significant harm. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that the child's safety is maintained whilst the risk of harm in the future is reduced.
Child Protection Review Conferences	These ensure that children who are the subject of a child protection plan remain monitored and that their individual child protection plan remains valid. The first conference should be held within 3 months of the initial conference. Further reviews should take place within 6 months of each other for as long as the child's name remains subject of a child protection plan.
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a form of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>Child Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.</p>
Children Act 1989 and 2004	Legislation on which the protection of children is based. Includes both public and private law, (family proceedings).
Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)	<p>A single, strategic, overarching plan for local services for children and young people. It is the responsibility of each Local Authority (except those with 'three stars' who have a choice) to draw up the local CYPP.</p> <p>www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/planningandcommissioning/cypp</p>
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	<p>The CAF is a standardised approach to assessing a child's need for services. It has been designed for practitioners in all agencies to help them to communicate and work together more effectively with the aim of identifying and addressing problems before they become serious.</p> <p>www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf</p>
Core Assessment (CA)	<p>An in-depth assessment of a child in need to gain an understanding about the most important aspects of the needs of a child and the capacity of the caregivers to respond appropriately to these needs within their wider family and community context.</p> <p>Children's Services had lead responsibility for carrying out core assessments within 35 days including contributions by all relevant agencies to determine whether services are needed to promote the child's welfare in accordance with the expectations of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families.</p>

	A core assessment may be carried out by means of section 47 enquiries for children who are assessed as being likely to suffer significant harm.
Core Group	The group of parents and professionals, identified at the initial child protection conference, who are responsible for implementing the protection plan.
Domestic violence/ domestic abuse	It includes threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Evidence exists that children can suffer long term damage from living in a household where domestic violence takes place. Exposure to domestic violence is now included in the definition of harm.
Emergency Duty Team (EDT)	The social care team which is responsible for providing a response out of normal office hours.
Emergency Protection Order (EPO)	An order made by a court in accordance with Section 44 Children Act 1989, to enable the applicant (usually Children's Services) to remove a child to a safe place or to prevent the removal of a child from a safe place on the grounds that the child would otherwise be likely to suffer significant harm. The duration of the EPO is specified in the order, but will not exceed eight days. An EPO gives the applicant parental responsibility which it shares with the parent(s).
Family Group Conferences (FGCs)	A forum for using family members to develop the plan for a child's future. FGCs do not replace Child Protection Conferences , and are most often used where a child is in need of support and services.
Foster Carer	An adult who has been assessed and approved by the local authority to look after children on its behalf. A foster carer does not have parental responsibility and does not replace the child's parents, but does offer day to day care that children need when they cannot live with their own family.
Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)	Support victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of serious injury or homicide.
Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)	A person employed by Children's Services whose duties include chairing the child protection conferences.
Initial Assessment (IA)	A preliminary assessment of a child who appears to be a child in need in accordance with Section 17 Children Act 1989. Completed within a maximum of 7 working days, led by Children's Services, in accordance with the expectations of The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, in order to establish whether there is a need to provide services or to undertake a core assessment or child

	protection enquiries.
Interim Care Order (ICO)	Time limited court order under the Children Act 1989 to be renewed by the court after no more than 8 weeks and then every 4 weeks
Initial Child Protection Conference	A meeting which takes place when it is assessed that a child is at continuing risk of harm. All agencies involved as well as the parents and child (where appropriate) would normally attend in order to determine whether the child should be subject to a child protection plan and to draft an outline child protection plan.
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer (for allegations against staff). Has the responsibility to oversee allegations against members of staff across all organisations.
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	A committee comprised of senior managers from all agencies and organisations which provide services to children and families. The purpose of the LSCB is to ensure that all agencies work together to safeguard the welfare of all children in their area and to protect children from abuse and neglect in accordance with the expectations of Working Together. LSCBs replaced the former Area Child Protection Committees.
Looked After Child (LAC)	When a child is 'in care' on a statutory basis, or 'accommodated' on a voluntary basis by the local authority. The child may be in a foster or residential home or placed at home. See also "Care".
Looked after children health assessments (IHA/RHA)	Once in care the statutory requirement is that all children should have an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) within four weeks of being placed. The IHA is undertaken done by a doctor, usually a Paediatrician. This is the responsibility of the Social Worker to initiate with the Looked After Health Administrator. Thereafter children under the age of five are seen every six months and over fives are seen yearly for a Review Health Assessment (RHA). The RHA can be undertaken by an appropriate health professional. This may be a Health Visitor/School Nurse or Looked After Children's Nurse. The aim of the health assessments is to ensure that the children and their carers are able to access appropriate treatment as required, identify any gaps in the child's health and ensure that the child is able to achieve optimum health. A summary and health plan following the health assessment will be made available to the Social Worker and Carers.
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. MARACs are multi-agency meetings which focus on the victims of domestic violence where there is a high or very high risk. They aim to provide a co-coordinated response to support the victim and to link into relevant groups (e.g. MAPPA).

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)	Local panels which bring together police, probation, social services and other agencies to monitor violent and sex offenders in the community once they are released from prison. www.dfes.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies
NAI	Non accidental injury.
Parental Responsibility	A legal term from Section 3(1) of the Children Act 1989, meaning 'all the rights, duties, powers and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property'. Always held by the mother and by a father where the parents are married. Unmarried fathers may acquire parental responsibility by registering the child's birth jointly with the mother or by formal declaration. Parental responsibility is also acquired by a non-parent holding a Residence Order (Section 8 Children Act 1989) and by the local authority if the court commits a child to its care. Parental responsibility is only removed from birth parents completely at the point of a child being adopted.
Police Protection	The power that any police officer has, in accordance with Section 46 Children Act 1989, to remove to, or keep in a safe place, any child who is found to be at risk of significant harm. The power lasts 72 hours and (amongst other things) Children's Services must be notified that a child has been made the subject of police protection as soon as practicable in order that Section 47 enquiries can be carried out.
Police Protection Order (PPO)	A 72 hour order taken by the police to protect a child in an emergency, under the Children Act 1989.
Private Fostering	Private fostering is an arrangement made privately to care for a child under the age of 16 for 28 days or more, by someone other than the child's grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. The local authority should be notified of all such arrangements, as it has a duty to assess and monitor them.
Residence Order (RO)	An order made by a court directing with whom a child under 16 years should live. The holder of a residence order shares parental responsibility as long as the order lasts.
Risk to children	The term now used to highlight individuals who have been formally assessed as presenting a potential risk to children. They may or may not have been convicted of a criminal offence. The term 'Schedule 1 Offender' is no longer to be used, as it is not a reliable indicator of risk.
Safeguarding	Activity intended to ensure that children stay safe; to protect them from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation and also to minimise more general risks such as those from accidents and bullying.
Section 17	The section of the Children Act 1989 that describes the responsibility of the local authority towards "children in need".

Section 47 Enquiries	Enquiries carried out in accordance with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 where a local authority Children's Services is obliged to carry out enquiries whenever it suspects, or is informed that, a child who lives in its area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. The enquiries are directed at determining whether the authority should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.
Serious Case Review (SCR)	<p>A review of practice undertaken by all relevant agencies whenever a child dies or suffers serious injury in circumstances where abuse is confirmed or suspected and it is considered that there may be lessons for how agencies work together to safeguard children.</p> <p>The aim of a case review is to establish whether the case indicates that changes could and should be made, and if so to identify how these changes will be brought about.</p> <p>A Serious Case Review will be held if a child dies (including death by suicide) and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death.</p> <p>A Serious Case Review will be considered:</p> <p>(a) if a child has sustained a potentially life threatening injury through abuse or neglect; or</p> <p>(b) if a child has suffered serious sexual abuse or has sustained serious and permanent impairment of health or development through abuse or neglect; and</p> <p>(c) if a child's case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services work together to safeguard children.</p>
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome – see SUDI
Significant Harm	<p>Harm means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development. It includes physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development and both physical and mental health. Ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and non-physical forms of ill-treatment, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.</p> <p>The significance of the harm is the matter of judgement by comparison with a similar child.</p>
Strategy Discussion	<p>A discussion, involving Children's Services, the police and any other agencies as appropriate, that takes place whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances and degree of urgency, a strategy discussion may take place at a meeting or by other means, e.g. by telephone. Its purpose is to plan necessary enquiries.</p>
SUDI	Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy, where a child under the age of

	24 months dies in the home environment or in hospital and there is no immediately apparent explanation (also known as cot death or SIDS).
Team Around the Child (TAC)	A TAC is a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners established on a case-by-case basis to support a child, young person or family. TAC supports particular elements of good professional practice in joined-up working, information sharing and early intervention.
Team Around the Family (TAF)	<p>The Team Around the Family (TAF) is an approach to conducting an assessment of a family's additional needs (including the needs of the children) and deciding how those needs should be met.</p> <p>The TAF will promote more effective, earlier identification of additional needs, particularly in universal services, but also across the continuum of need. It is intended to provide a simple process for an assessment of a family's needs and strengths, taking account of the role of parents, carers and environmental factors on children's development. Practitioners will then be better placed to agree, with the child and family, about what support is appropriate. The TAF will also help to improve integrated working by promoting co-ordinated service provision and ensure better information sharing.</p>