

# LA PRE-PROCEEDINGS PRACTICE: GOOD PRACTICE ESSENTIALS



## EARLY WORK WITH THE FAMILY

Consistent, focused work with family, including multiple agency inputs where appropriate, to ensure children's needs are met and that they can be brought up within their family wherever possible

FGCs/family meetings to identify wider support available and potential carers

Planned interventions and support offered reflect evidence-informed practice and clear view of the child's needs

Progress and impacts on the child rigorously monitored, assessed and recorded

Improvements required and by when made clear and consistently communicated

## CONCERNS ESCALATE

Potential to move to proceedings subject to managerial review

Early, direct and frank communication with parents on potential for proceedings

Action required to avoid this made clear and, where appropriate, additional support provided

Early planning set in train in case proceedings prove unavoidable:

Key sources of evidence including views of the child collated and updated; additional family carer assessments commissioned

Outline case summary prepared; decision-making meetings provisionally scheduled in

## LEGAL GATEWAY/PLANNING

Evidence reviewed – are threshold and other tests met?

Alternatives to proceedings appropriately explored?

Assessments up to date or are other assessments needed?

(If appropriate) Further attempts to support family/retain the child at home

## FINAL DECISION

Where concerns are confirmed, processes and timing for completing essential pre-proceedings work with the family agreed

Does parent have capacity to instruct a legal representative?

Parent/s told of concerns in a way they can understand and invited/encouraged to respond. This to complement the formal letter and meeting before proceedings

(If appropriate) Specialist assessment discussed and agreed with parent/legal representative

## APPLICATION AND EVIDENCE

Social work statement contains clear evidence to support the core judgments which the court has to make

Evidence is balanced/reflects the degree of certainty with which conclusions have been reached

Documentation screened and quality assured by senior social worker

All essential annexed documentation submitted by PLO deadlines

All questions in the application form adequately addressed