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Legal Framework – Public Law Outline (PLO)

Under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities may apply to the courts for a care order to take over the day to day care of the child where it can be established that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm as a consequence of the standard of care provided by parents.

The conduct and management of care proceedings is governed by the *Public Law Outline 2014* (PLO); this sets out the timetabled steps to be taken in order to ensure that proceedings are completed within the 26 week timescale and the courts will only grant one adjournment of 8 weeks in extenuating circumstances.

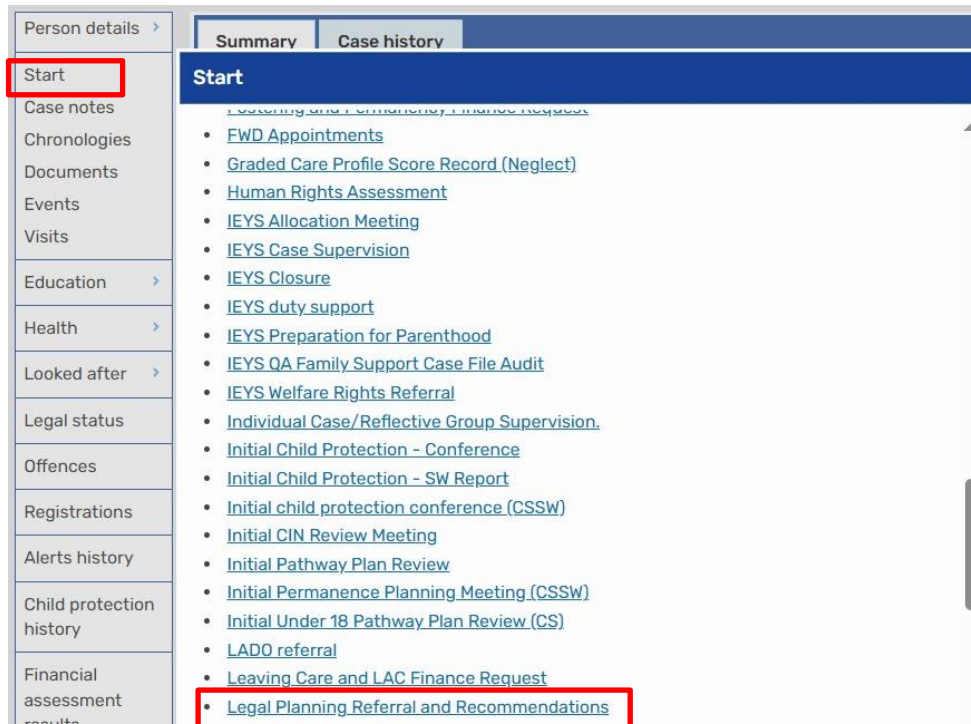
To ensure that this timescale can be met, and that delay in making decisions on the child's care can be avoided, there is a statutory duty on local authorities to carry out the following pre-proceedings steps:

- carry out assessments and gather information about the child's needs to inform decisions about their long term care;
- work with families to resolve difficulties and avoid care proceedings;
- explore alternative care arrangements for the child within their family and friends network;
- obtain the views of parents and the child's wishes and feelings;
- establish whether the threshold for issuing care proceedings has been reached.

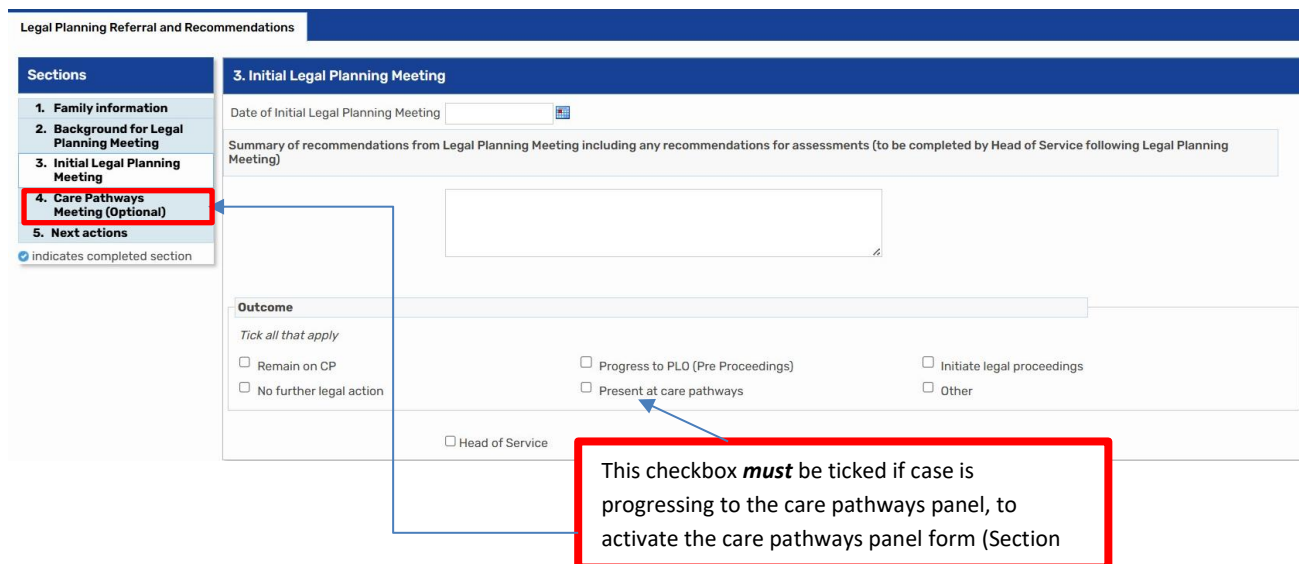


Legal Planning Referral and Recommendations


The Legal Planning Referral and Recommendations work step initiates the Legal Workflow on Mosaic. This can be accessed via the 'Start' option on the Mosaic front screen



The Initial Legal Planning Meeting (ILPM) is recorded in Section 3. Where a decision is made at the ILPM to proceed to care pathways panel, then the Care Pathways Panel form is also completed within this step.



Social Worker to review and complete Sections 1 and 2.

 Once you have completed Section 3, send the '**Team Manager Authorisation**' Request to your line manager. This request is **mandatory**.

 If case is progressing to a Care Pathways Panel then send the '**Care Pathways Virtual Administrator (Panel duties)**' to the Care Pathways Virtual Administrator.



The Care Pathways Virtual Administrator will pick up the Request to carry out the relevant panel duties.



The '**Chair Authorisation**' Request will be assigned to the Chair.

Legal Planning Referral and Recommendation - Next Action

If the decision is no further action, then the Next Action '**No Further Action**' should be selected and this will terminate Legal workflow.

If the decision is made to progress accommodate under Section 20, then the Next Action '**Decision to seek accommodation (CS)**' should be selected and assigned to the allocated Social Worker.

***Note:** In certain cases a 'Decision to seek accommodation (CS)' step may have been started already as a standalone step, in those cases please contact Mosaic Support Team for advice on how to proceed.*

If the decision is made to progress to PLO, then the Next Action '**PLO Pre-proceedings**' should be selected and assigned to Lake Gledhill (Legal Proceedings & Case Progression Service Manager)