



south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership

South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Practitioner's Guidance –

De-Registration from the Child Protection Register



Version Control

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Review History

| Version | Date | Summary of Changes | Responsible Officer(s) |
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| V2 | November 2024 | Review of guidance and audit of de registration was undertaken and guidance was updated in relation to the findings. | Jayne Miller- Senior Nurse Manager Childrens Health, Ellison Lang- Public Protection Policy Officer- SAHSCP Aileen Barker- Service Manager-SAHSCP Liz Paterson - Service Manager- SAHSCP Gillian Carrol- Welfare Officer- SA Education Anne Davidson- Clinical Team leader, SAHSCP |

South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Practitioner's Guidance De-Registration from the Child Protection Register Team with the Family Responsibilities

1. Introduction

In South Ayrshire our aim is to work in the best possible way, in partnership with families to improve outcomes and life chances for all our children and young people. We are committed to recognising, respecting and promoting children's and young people's rights, and protecting their wellbeing by 'Getting It Right For Every Child' in offering help and support to children and families to meet their needs.

National Child Protection Guidance 2021 states '*Where a child is no longer considered to be at risk of significant harm and the Child Protection Plan no longer forms part of a child's plan, their name should be removed from the child protection register by the Review Child Protection Planning Meeting (referred to as de-registration). The child and their family/carers may still require on-going support and this should be managed through the child's plan.*'

Evidence indicates that children can become vulnerable during the period following de-registration if supports are removed too quickly or do not continue to be reviewed.

"The removal of a child's name from the Child Protection Register should not in itself lead to a sudden or significant reduction or withdrawal in services or support to the child or family by any or all of the agencies. The risk of significant harm to the child may have receded, but the child may continue to require a range of support". (Scottish Government, 2014)

This guidance outlines the responsibilities and practice considerations for practitioners across all agencies that may be part of a Team with the Family when a child's name is removed from the Child Protection register. It is crucial that where necessary, practitioners continue to work in partnership with the child, family members and carers to consider their views, whilst continuing to promote strengths and support wellbeing.

2. De-Registration Core Group Meetings and Team with the Family Meetings

2.1 When a period of Child Protection registration has ended, De-Registration Core Group meetings will take place for a minimum of 12 weeks from the date of de-registration with the first meeting 4-6 weeks after the Child Protection Review Planning Meeting (CPRPM) and thereafter another in a further 6 weeks.

2.2 During the 12-week period post de-registration, the Social Work Team Leader will continue to arrange and chair the meetings. The child's social worker will continue to act as Lead Professional and maintain responsibility for coordinating the Child's Plan in conjunction with the Named Person. During this period, the child will be seen by their social worker no less than once per fortnight. If there are dual processes and the child has a Looked After Review

within this period, the Looked After Review can be combined with a De-Registration Core Group meeting and there is no requirement for two separate meetings (as long as timescales are adhered to).

2.3 Where any member of the Team with the Family cannot attend, a deputy should be identified, and a written update provided to the chairperson or Lead Professional outlining progress with the support and intervention the individual is responsible for within the Child's Plan. This should be in exceptional circumstances and in agreement with the chair.

2.4 To enable analysis of the integrated chronology as part of the meetings, each member of the child's team is responsible for ensuring any and all significant events are shared on AYRshare.

2.5 At the 12-week meeting, consideration should be given for the requirement for the social worker to continue with the Lead Professional role. The decision should be based on the level of assessed risk and need and should be clearly documented within the Child's Plan and the record of the meeting. During this period (and as norm) there should be recording of all visits, meeting dates and outcomes in agency records. Minutes of meetings should be uploaded onto AYRshare and a clear analysis within agency records and chronologies should be reflective of all agreed decisions.

2.6 Where it is identified that a Lead Professional from Children and Families Social Work is no longer necessary, but a multi-agency plan is still required to meet identified outcomes, a new Lead Professional should be identified. The decision should be based on the child's needs. Further guidance on the Lead Professional role can be found [here](#). Where additional support or service provision is minimal, the coordination role may be undertaken by the Named Person. The Child's Plan must be fully updated with the decisions made in discussion and partnership with the family, and agreement reached on the individual responsible for ensuring the Child's Plan is maintained.

2.7 The requirement for future Team with the Family meetings should be discussed and a review date agreed and recorded within the plan. If another process is in place, for example a Looked after Child process or a Staged Intervention process, that process can still be followed and again should be recorded as the basis of further meetings and child's plan. An entry should also be made within the Named Persons and Lead Professionals records. AYRshare records should also be updated including the contact field in line with AYRshare Folder Creation and Access Standard which can be found [here](#).

2.8 The process for highlighting future areas of concern should be agreed and documented by the Named Person or Lead Professional within the contingency section of the Child's plan. Where more than one professional continues to be involved, significant events should continue to be shared through the integrated chronology on AYRshare, and analysed by the Named Person in conjunction with the Lead Professional where in place.

2.9 The Named Person and Lead Professional where identified, should continue to work with the child and provide additional support to the family for a defined period to meet any

outstanding wellbeing need as outlined within either the integrated or single agency Child's Plan.

2.10 Timescales for review of a Child's Plan (not exceeding 6 months), should be clearly documented by the Named Person and Lead Professional within the child's single agency record and minute of meetings. Staff supervision for any professional who is part of a Child's Plan should continue to be sought during this period in line with agency standards.

2.11 Any concerns identified which may require a Child Protection response should be raised in line with South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran Child Protection procedures and the [National Guidance for Child Protection](#)

2.12 Child Death

Where an Unborn Baby is on the Child Protection Register and the pregnancy does not continue, there is no requirement for a De-Registration Core Group Meeting. The allocated Social Worker should ensure a sensitive, collaborative and respectful approach is co-ordinated in the stepping down of Child Protection processes.

In situations of a sudden or unexplained death of a child or infant a collaborative and co-ordinated inter-agency approach is necessary. Alongside the child death investigation exists a responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of any other children or infants in the household or yet to be born that may be affected (Article 6 UNCRC). When there are surviving siblings, an inter-agency referral discussion will be considered in all cases and is the recommended mechanism to ensure early, multi-agency and co-ordinated decision making. This will enable appropriate single-agency or multi-agency support, assistance and intervention for families where this is required or provide assurance that no further action is necessary.

De-Registration Multi-Agency Practitioner Guidance - Flowchart

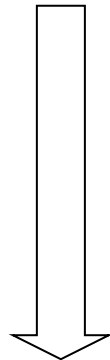
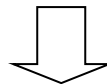
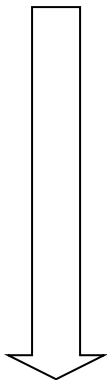
Decision at a Child Protection Review Planning Meeting (CPRPM) to remove a child's name from Child Protection Register.



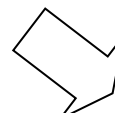
De registration Core Group meeting, chaired by SW, scheduled no later than 6 weeks after CPRPM. *(N.B. De-Reg Core Groups may also take the form of a De-Reg Core Group/Looked After Review if dual processes are in place and a Looked After Review is already scheduled or due within this timeframe)*



A further De registration Core Group scheduled 6-8 weeks thereafter (chaired by SW)

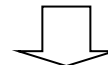


Child/Family continue to require a plan of support with SW as the Lead professional. This will remain until such time the Team with the Family agree no plan is required, or the plan should handover to another Lead Professional or Named person.

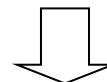


No ongoing role for Social Work identified and no Team with the Family approach is required. Child's Plan is formally stood down and no further action is required.

No ongoing role for Social Work identified but a co-ordinated Team with the Family approach and Child's Plan is required for ongoing support - Named Person / Lead Professional Identified.



Revised Team with the Family Membership confirmed.



Dates for future Team with the Family meetings set by Named Person/Lead Professional - ongoing review of the Child's Plan and the supports identified continues until such time the plan is no longer required.