

Central Bedfordshire County Council - Children & Families Public Law Outline (PLO) Toolkit

1. Introduction:


This PLO Toolkit has been developed from the findings of: the PLO Peer Review (part of Essex County Council's contribution to the DfE's Partners in Practice programme), the Public Law Advisory Group report (Dec 2020), and the Family Justice Board Statement 'Priorities for the Family Justice System' (Dec 2020).









The PLO Toolkit is intended to assist local authorities fulfil the key recommendations set out in each of these reports.








2. How to use the Toolkit:

- Completing the Self Evaluation Tool (see document 4, embedded below) will help to identify the strengths and areas for development in your Local Authority.
- A further toolkit for conducting a peer review with another local authority (using the methodology of the PLO peer review referenced above) is also included (see item 2 in the below list). A peer review brings the additional benefit of an external lens, and of learning from observing another's practice.
- The toolkit list below has a number of documents to support improved decision making, for example the PLO flow chart plots the decision-making process and the relevant documents at each stage of the PLO process.
- At the end of the table list are links to guidance and resources, for example the Family Justice Board statement which outlines the need for practice and culture change. There are also some legal judgement quotes for reference.
- The toolkit should be used flexibly and dynamically - the documents and resources may be updated/deleted as required.

For further advice/information regarding this toolkit, please contact Russel Breyer (Russel.Breyer@essex.gov.uk) or Dawn Attreed-James (Dawn.Attreed-James@essex.gov.uk).

No.	Title	Author	Context	Document
1	Essex C&F: PLO Toolkit Presentation	Essex Children & Families	Background to the development of the PLO self-evaluation & toolkit.	 Essex CF PLO Toolkit - Jan 2021 - 1

No.	Title	Author	Context	Document
2	Care Proceedings in England. The case for Clear Blue Water.	Isabelle Trowler & University of Sheffield	Policy briefing on issuing proceedings.	 Clear_Blue_Water_Policy_Briefing.pdf
3	Self-Evaluation – Public Law	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Tool to support Local Authorities understanding of their current strengths and development needs.	 Self Assessment PLO Master.docx
4	PLO Flow Chart	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Details the stages for decisions and practice when entering and reviewing PLO.	 Flow Chart for PLO and Review.doc
5	Initial Legal Planning Meeting Agenda	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Template that can be used for initial Legal planning meetings including a discussion guide, views of all to be considered and a plan of action re PLO/issuing.	 LPM Memo.docx
6	PLO Leaflet and List of Solicitors	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families		 PLO leaflet for Families_ (002).docx  Solicitors List.doc
7	PLO Letter Template	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Details to parents the reason for this action, what will happen next and what they need to do next.	 PLO Letter .docx
8	Parenting Assessment Plan	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families		 Parenting Assessment Plan.docx
9	First and Final SW Statement	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Template for Social Worker statement for ICO	

No.	Title	Author	Context	Document
				 Initial Statement Template.doc  Final Statement Template.docx  Short Statement Template.docx  Updating Statement Template.doc  Care Plan (Interim or Final) Template .doc
10	SW Statement in Support of an EPO	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families	Template for social work statement when applying for an EPO	 Short Statement Template.docx
11	Cultural Genogram examples	Central Bedfordshire Children and Families		 Cultural Genogram.odp

3. Links to Useful Resources

1. [Family-Justice-Board-statement-Dec-2020_1.pdf \(judiciary.uk\)](#)
2. [The Road Ahead - Sir Andrew McFarlane - President of the Family Division for the Family Court in England and Wales](#)
3. [Public-Law-Advisory-Group-Report-Dec-2020-1.pdf \(judiciary.uk\)](#)

4. [Private Law Working Group \(PLWG\) Response to Consultation \(judiciary.uk\)](#)
5. [Family Procedure Rules](#) - The guidance also includes case plan template
6. [PRACTICE DIRECTION 12A - CARE, SUPERVISION AND OTHER PART 4 PROCEEDINGS: GUIDE TO CASE MANAGEMENT \(justice.gov.uk\)](#)
7. [Public Law - Practice Directions 2014](#)
8. [Updated version of the Remote Family Access Court](#)
9. [The President of the Family Division Working Group on Medical Experts in the Family Courts Final Report](#)
10. [Remote hearings in the family justice system: reflections and experiences - Sept 2020](#)
11. [Safety from Domestic Abuse and Special Measures in Remote and Hybrid Hearings](#)
12. [Going to Court about a Family Issue? Leaflet](#)
13. [The Court and your Child](#)
14. [Representing yourself in family court – film](#)
15. [Initial Family and Friends Care Assessment: A good practice guide](#)
16. [Delivering Good Practice Initial Assessments of Family & Friends Carers - addendum in the context of Covid-19](#)
17. [Family Rights Group](#)



Quotes.docx

18. [Legal Judgement Quotes for reference](#)