

This means that from 1 April 2008 this is the new terminology that should be used.

Current Terminology	New Terminology
Child Protection	Child Protection Plan recorded on ICS system (RAISE)
Child on the Child Protection Register	Child subject to a Child Protection Plan
Recommendation that the child's name be placed on the Child Protection Register	Recommendation that the child is made subject of a Child Protection Plan
Recommendation to remove a child's name from the child protection register	Recommendation to discontinue the child protection plan
Register enquiry	Child Protection Enquiry (An enquiry to the OOH/ IAT/Customer First to check if a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan)

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**No Child Protection Registration –
 What Happens Now?**

Guide for Professionals



From 1st April 2008, Medway will no longer maintain a Child Protection Register. This change follows Government guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006 and is connected to the new ICS record system. The change is intended to help focus staff and families on the child protection plan and the day-to-day actions everyone needs to take to safeguard the child. This is what keeps children safe and makes a difference to their lives.

The new Kent & Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures 2007 is written in keeping with the new requirements, therefore the term used is "Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan" (previously referred to as "Children on the Child Protection Register" CPR).

Context & Reasoning

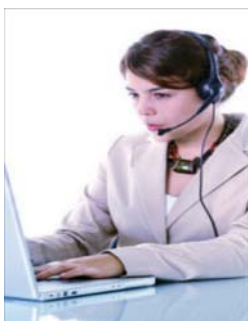
- Registration' alone does not protect
- Challenge perception that services are registration' dependent
- Reduce stigmatisation
- Continuum of need and early intervention
- Increase focus on outcomes

What will change?

From 1st April 2008 Medway Children's Services will no longer keep a 'child protection register', but professionals will be able to make a check whether children about whom they have concerns are subject to a Child Protection Plan. The Child Protection Conference will continue to decide if the child/ren being considered are suffering (or are likely to suffer) significant harm. For those children for whom it is agreed there is a likelihood of significant harm, a Child Protection Plan will be put together (as currently happens).

The main concern ('category') must be recorded.

Appropriate workers will still be able to check if a child is subject of a child protection plan by contacting Customer-First, Duty Teams or during out of office hours the Out of Hours Team. There will no longer be a Custodian of the



"Is Mary subject to a Child Protection Plan?"

Child Protection, but a Designated Manager responsible for the maintenance of the list of children who are the subject of Child Protection Plans.

What will stay the same?

All the duties described in guidance and legislation (see references) remain, including:

For all workers and volunteers

- Being able to recognise and report a child who may be suffering harm through abuse or neglect
- Listening to children and their parents
- Assisting Children's Services in any enquiries about a child who may be suffering harm (Sec. 47 Enquiries)
- Knowing when to share information to safeguard any child
- Knowing how to escalate concerns if you think another agency's response is inadequate
- Being open and honest with children and their families and listening to their views, including considering any cultural differences
- Arranging for interpretation, translation and other services to enable everyone to participate in the safeguarding process
- Contributing to core assessments on any child who may be suffering harm in line with the Framework for Assessment, 2000

Child Protection Plans

A child protection plan is a working tool that should enable the family and professionals to understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others. The aims of the plan are:

- To keep the child safe
- To promote their welfare

- If it can be done safely, to support their wider family to care for them

It is the responsibility of the core group (including family members) to develop & implement the plan as a detailed working tool. It is the role of the key worker to coordinate the plan, including keeping the child up to date with the plan and finding out what their views are.

Effective plans should:

- Identify any further assessments needed
- Identify the root causes of the harm to the child, based on assessments so far
- Set out specific and achievable child focused outcomes (both long and short term)
- Set out what both the family and workers involved need to do to stop the child suffering harm
- Identify how the child will be involved in the plans
- Set out which workers will be checking the child is safe and well on a day to day basis
- Include a contingency plan, i.e. what should be done if the child protection plan is not working
- Decide when the child protection plan will be reviewed
- Decide who will be in the Core Group, when the first meeting will be and how regularly the group will meet

Expected Impact

- Some uncertainty during transition
- Clearer, evidence based, professional judgements
- Clearer focus on outcomes for all
- Children and families feel less stigmatised leading to improved partnership working
- Enquiries and investigations about children where there is concern will continue as usual