

## **Appendix 1: Gateway Panel Terms of Reference**

### **1. Purpose**

- Applications to make children looked after through any legal provision including Care Proceeding and Section 20 of the Children Act 1989
- To authorise Public Law Outline (PLO).

### **2. Aim**

- Increase the consistency of decision making in relation to children becoming Looked After;
- Reduce the number of unplanned admissions to care;
- Increase stability of placements;
- Improve the quality and content of assessment and reporting;
- Develop a culture of cross directorate accountability and ownership;
- Develop and ensure consistency and transparency of decision making;
- Monitor the use of PLO;
- Promote the use of Family Support especially Family Group Conference to ensure children's needs are met within their families and communities.

### **3. Objectives**

- Apply consistent thresholds;
- Develop and embed a culture of proactive care planning;
- Raise standards of professional practice;
- Reduce duplication of work across the Directorate;
- More effectively target directorate resources;
- Identify gaps in resource;
- Support and evidence based interventions.

### **4. Principles**

- Ensure that the needs of children are central to decision making processes;
- Expect high standards of assessment and analysis and report on any practice issues;
- Children are best raised within their families/networks. Looked After status should be avoided wherever possible.

### **5. Chair**

The Panel is to be chaired by the Head of Service, Children's Social Care.

### **6. Administrative Arrangements**

The PA to the Head of Service, Children's Social Care will be responsible for all matters of administration.

## **7. Membership and Role of Members**

- Solicitor, Legal Services – to provide advice on all points of law in relation to applications made to the panel
- Service Manager, Children’s Social Care- to advise and report on any issues in respect of their service involvement or linked partner agency and to authorise interventions or allocation of resources from their service.
- Service Manager, Family Services - to advise and report on any issue or interventions by their service and to authorise the provision of support or resource from their service.
- Placement Advisor, Fostering team - to advise on placement availability, report placement moves and to act as the operational link between the panel and placement providers.
- Team Manager , Youth Offending Team – to advise on any issues of interventions by their service and to authorise the provision of support or resource from their service
- Team Manager, Youth Services - to advise on any issues of interventions by their service and to authorise the provision of support or resource from their service
- Head of Virtual School - to advise on any issues of interventions by their service and to authorise the provision of support or resource from their service
- Team Manager, Housing Services -to advise on any issues of interventions by their service and to authorise the provision of support or resource from their service.