

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- a. This protocol exists to ensure that all professional workers understand the critical importance of effective communication and that their respective roles and responsibilities are clear. This is particularly important where a case involves care proceedings.
- b. **When a court determines any question with respect to—**
 - (a) the upbringing of a child; or**
 - (b) the administration of a child's property or the application of any income arising from it.

the child's welfare shall be the court's paramount consideration.
- c. CSC must ensure that ASCHPP are invited to multi agency meetings so that there is a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities, and that there is a joint understanding of the child's needs.
- d. Where the CSC intervention is because of a child protection issue, the ASCHPP social worker must ensure that they fully understand the issues and risks, so that the potential for a child to be inadvertently further endangered is minimised.
- e. Joint training should be encouraged to facilitate greater understanding of each divisions roles and responsibilities.

2. **ENGAGING WITH PARENTS WHO HAVE A DISABILITY**

- a. A parent can become "known" to the ASCHPP or CSC in a variety of ways. It is important that the structures and processes of both divisions are flexible and sensitive to avoid passing people between teams when they seek information or services.
- b. Any case where a child is identified as a "young carer" for a parent with a disability should be recorded as a part of the CSC assessment.
- c. In each case, the social worker should notify the other division to ensure that sufficient support is facilitated.
- d. Lead responsibility
- e. Co-working and regular communications between the two divisions must take place to ensure both service areas understand each other's role and that the respective care plans take account of the whole family picture. It is important that the rationale for any decisions regarding services or approach be shared, to ensure that the effect on the whole family is considered by both Adults and Children's Social care.
- f. When Adults Services are undertaking an assessment under The Care Act and become aware of a child in the household, then the Adults worker must contact Children's Social Care to ascertain whether the child is open to Children's Social Care.
- g. When a Children's Social Care social worker becomes aware that an adult carer is in receipt of services from Adult Social Care and Health, then they must make contact with that allocated worker.

Protocol between the Children's Social Care (CSC) and Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection (ASCHPP) where both are involved in case management

- h. If during the course of a case, Children's Social Care social worker becomes aware that an adult may require ASCH services then a referral must be made without delay.
- i. If an assessment under The Care Act is completed following the completion of a [Children's Social Care] assessment then Children's Social Care must re-evaluate the recommendations in light of any services being provided.
- j. Where there is a pre-existing assessment under The Care Act (or one being undertaken concurrently with the Children's Social Care assessment) then, whilst any support plan must inform the recommendations of the core/parenting assessment, the formulation of recommendations is the role of Children's Social Care.
- k. Before either division implements any care plan, all assessments and support plans must be shared with each other to aid understanding of the whole context of a child's life. This is of utmost importance where the case is subject to care proceedings.
- l. In cases where Children's Social Care are working under the Public Law Outline, the lead responsibility in respect of Court matters is Children's Social Care and all documents relating to the case must be agreed with the child's social worker prior to submission.
- m. All legal correspondence should go through NCC legal services and Children's Social Care.
- n. Children's Social Care should share both any pre-proceedings timetable and Court timetable with relevant Adult Social Care and Health colleagues.
- o. Communicating with parents
- p. Irrespective of a parent's needs, a copy of any assessment and care plan should be available in an appropriately accessible format to parents. This includes assessments in respect of the children by the CSC, as well as their own assessments by the ASCHPP.
- q. Parents must be afforded appropriate support to enable them to participate fully in meetings concerning them or their families. This includes an advocate, if appropriate.
- r. The child or young person is also entitled to attend meetings concerning their care and may be provided an advocate to ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and acknowledged.
- s. ISSUES RESOLUTION/ESCALATION PROCESS
- t. Where there is a disagreement between Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care and Health regarding an assessment and/or care plan, then the team managers from each Service should try to resolve the issues in the first instance.
- u. If the team managers cannot come to a resolution then this will be escalated to the relevant Service Managers. If there is still no resolution then it will be escalated to the relevant Group Managers for decision.
- v. No disagreements between the two service areas will be allowed to be played out within the Court arena and will not involve other partners outside of NCC.

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- w. If there are persistent issues between Children’s Social Care and Adults Social Care and Health then the relevant Service Directors will be informed and a full review of the issues undertaken.

Signed on behalf of ASCHPP	Signed on behalf of CSCS
(Signature)	(Signature)
(Signature)	(Signature)
Date: ___ / ___ / ___	Date: ___ / ___ / ___