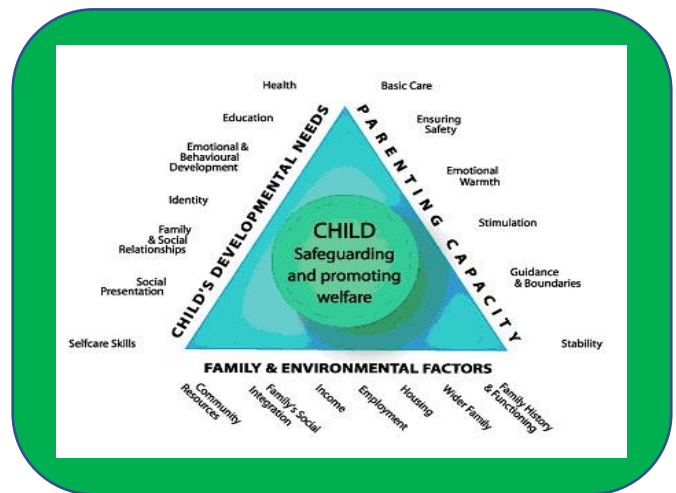


Child In Need (CIN) Explained

What is a Child In Need (CIN) ?

Children in Need (CIN) Plan - A CIN Plan is drawn up following a Single Assessment which identifies the child as having complex needs and where a coordinated response is needed in order that the child's needs can be met.

Child in Need Planning Meeting - A regular multi-agency meeting to develop and then review a CIN Plan.



Criteria for holding a Child In Need Planning Meeting

The CIN Planning Meeting should be arranged for those children in need who require:

- Intensive; or
- Ongoing; or
- Multi-agency services

Examples of these are:

- A CIN case which has been open longer than fifteen working days;
- Children who have been subject to a Child Protection Plan and who receive CIN services for a further 6 month period after Child Protection Plan ended;
- A Child, (or children), in receipt of s.17 services
- A child already receives a range of services that need co-ordinating;
- Has s.17 needs that require multi-agency service provision;
- Has been brought to notice because of a specific event, which highlights a range of concerns and identifies them as needing services, e.g. youth offending, stranger abuse, bereavement;
- Has not been identified as needing a Child Protection Plan but for whom there are concerns just below the threshold of child protection;
- Has needs that require co-ordination arising from their parent/s' own needs but where concerns are below the threshold of child protection;
- Is leaving the "Looked After" system and it is considered that a high or co-ordinated level of services will be necessary to maintain them in their family.

Consideration should be given to holding a Child in Need Planning Meeting on all open cases where:

- A Child in Need plan is Recommended from a single assessment and should be arranged within 15 working days of the completion of a single assessment;
- After any significant change in circumstance in the child's life or fresh concerns about the child that do not achieve the s.47 fresh hold.
- A young person is receiving accommodation via s.17

Child in Need Planning Meetings are not appropriate when:

A CIN Planning Meeting should not be held instead of a strategy meeting where there are concerns about child protection. Any child protection concerns should be dealt with first through a strategy meeting; if threshold is met a s.47 enquiry should follow. If threshold is not met, the outcome may be to hold a CIN Planning Meeting.

Arranging The Child In Need Meeting

CIN planning meeting can be called at anytime in the process of working with a child and family, but are usually arranged at the end of a single assessment.

The social worker should consult with the team manager or deputy team manager regarding the appropriateness of holding CIN Planning Meeting. The date and availability of a manager to chair the meeting (where necessary)

Consideration should be given as to any assistance that may be necessary to enable the family to attend or participate, for example; timing, transport and disabled access arrangements.

Consideration should be given to involve interpreters or someone with specific cultural or religious knowledge. The child or young person should be present (where appropriate) for some or all of the meeting

Family Involvement

The CIN meeting should always involve family members, unless doing so would jeopardise the family's well-being or that of another family member (as in cases involving domestic violence or forced marriage).

The social worker should consult and seek permission from a person with parental responsibility for the child regarding any other family members and representatives of other agencies who may usefully attend.

A decision not to involve family members must be made by a Team or Deputy Manager and recorded formally. The social worker should advise parents and any children attending that they can bring an advocate or supporter with them. Solicitors might be brought by family members as supporters or to provide legal representation, their role should be clarified and the Chair (social worker/manager) should be given notice that they are attending.

The Meeting

The first CIN meeting should be held within 15 working days after the completion of the single assessment.

In the first instance the CIN Planning Meeting should be chaired by the allocated social worker or by the Deputy team manager or team manager identified through supervision or request of the social worker, professionals network or family. The deputy manager should chair the 3rd review meeting (i.e. after 6 months) or at earlier review if concerned.

The social worker will have a draft plan (developed as a result of the single assessment) for discussion and further development at the CIN Planning Meeting.

The meeting must consider the needs of the family and work towards formulating a clear plan. The family should play a key role in this. Decisions will be made, where possible, with agreement (reflecting a desire to work in partnership), be based on negotiation (not imposition) and be respectful of family views. If no agreement can be reached, disagreements should be noted, along with any action proposed.

The CIN Planning Meeting Should always consider whether a family group conference would be helpful.

This CIN Plan must be provided to all attendees, and translated as appropriate.

The CIN Plan Meeting minutes should cover:

- The reason for the meeting
- Update since any previous meeting
- Development and/progress of the Child in Need Plan detailing
 - Needs to be addressed
 - Desired outcomes to be achieved and time scales
- Actions and persons responsible, services identified and time scale
 - Any contingency planning as necessary
- A summary of the main points of the meeting and decisions made next point a date within 12 weeks to update the CIN Plan.

Concluding a Child in Need Plan

If professional networks agree the CIN Plan has achieved its aims, the CIN Planning meeting can agree to either 'Step Down' and continue to support the family through a E-CAF, the identification of a lead professional and a Team Around the Child (with the parents consent)

Updating CIN Plan

The purpose of reviewing and updating the CIN Planning Meeting is to decide either that:

- There are increased strips or diminished difficulties in the family so that a lower level of services can now be offered e.g. A step down to a CAF, a lead professional and a Team Around the Child (TAC) or else no continuous need for children and families input: or
 - The current services are meeting needs and these should continue: or
 - The current services are not meeting needs and alternative services should be planned: or
 - There remains complex or serious difficulties that require a high level of intervention or service within current working arrangements but calling for frequent review: or
 - There has been no change within the current working arrangements and that the situation for the child is deteriorating, such that child protection should be considered or the child be after
- Minutes of the CIN Planning Meeting must be made and distributed to those invited to attend using the same format as that outlined for the initial CIN Planning Meeting.
- Further updating CIN Planning Meetings will be held at a minimum of every 12 weeks or more frequently if necessary