

DRAFT

Risk Management of Placement Stability – Traffic Light System

Childhood First’s mission to enable children and young people to recover from severe relational trauma necessitates the management of extremes of risk to create the conditions in which this work can take place. These risks must be managed alongside our responsibilities to safeguard both young people and our staff.

The risk management of placements begins with very careful thought about admission, as stated in our Admissions policy.

It would though be impossible to predict all risks in advance, it is reasonable to presume they may include:

- extremes of violence directed either at self or others,
- significant damage to property or the environment,
- significant disruption to the treatment work undertaken with other young people,
- extremes of sexualised behaviour
- all transitions

It is also important to note that given the dangerous and dysfunctional environments from which our young people emerge, they, their peers and staff may be exposed to risks coming from external sources that might include

- Family Members
- Individuals motivated to exploit our young peoples’ vulnerability, for instance pimps or drug dealers.

The Traffic Light System anticipates circumstances in which the risk is judged to be at such a magnitude that its management may include temporary or permanent withdrawal from placement.

CHILDHOOD FIRST – RISK MANAGEMENT FOR PLACEMENTS

Traffic Lights System

On the rare occasions when a placement is terminated there would be an internal review which would include consultants and an end of placement report; depending on the circumstances an organisational review would also be undertaken to ensure best practice and enable the learning process. The end of placement report would cover;

- Placement history
- Family history
- Presenting difficulties
- Health difficulties
- Danger to others
- Access to education
- Relationship difficulties – both Adults and Peers
- Communication & presentation
- Knowledge of the past, truthfulness in relation to hurt
- How progress was made
- What we have learnt can help hold ?
- Family support work
- Whole team working
- What went well in placement
- What could have worked better
- Factors leading to the end of the placement

It is crucial that we recognise the implications that might follow this course of action and their impact on

- The Young Person
- The Community
- The young person's family
- Commissioning Agencies
- The Childhood First brand.

Traffic Light System – see Appendix 1 & 2

The Traffic Light System structures thinking, communication, and action so that potential crises can be managed by a coherent network that can appropriately prioritise the needs of the young person and of the network as a whole.

This system demonstrates a structure which maintains an effective collaboration between Childhood First and referring authorities in which patterns of conduct that could evolve into crises and potentially threaten placement stability can be identified and appropriate management systems agreed and actioned.

CHILDHOOD FIRST – RISK MANAGEMENT FOR PLACEMENTS

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The risk assessment and behaviour management plan is used to inform placement decisions. Referring authorities understand and agree the way that our practice will manage the risks a young person presents on admission, and anticipate the ways in which this containment will evolve as the young person progresses through placement.

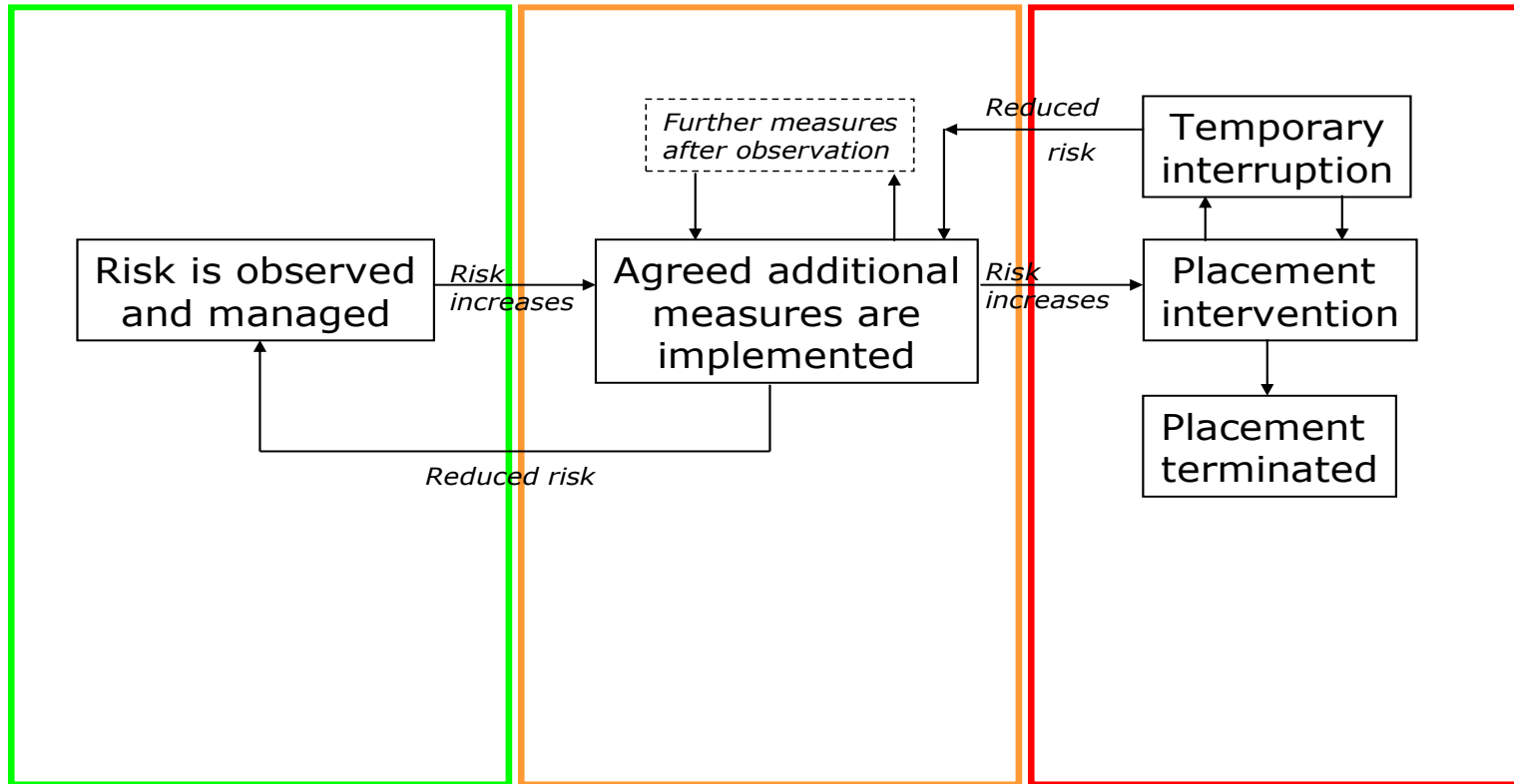
Contracts

The thinking underpinning the Traffic Light System can inform agreements Childhood First might make with commissioning authorities to make the way we manage these risks more explicit at the point of referral.

In practice this can be done by identifying key risks and then thinking through a pattern of graded intervention that includes anticipation of scenarios in which the risk might become unmanageable.

It is then possible for these to be laid out and agreed as a part of placement contracts. The National Contract includes the opportunity to add “Variations to the Provision” which can be agreed with Commissioners prior to placement.

Traffic light system – Appendix 1



Traffic light system – Appendix 2

