

CHILD IN NEED HOME VISITS DURING ASSESSMENT PERIOD - GUIDANCE

Reason for Contact:

CIN/Home visit – then add a headline for the reader such as any key information, any significant issue or direct work undertaken:

- CIN/Home visit – Joe seen looking grubby; other children fine
- CIN/Home visit – direct work My 3 houses completed
- CIN/Home visit – clear evidence of safety plan working

Detailed Notes:

Who was present on the visit – name and relationship to the child/young person

This can be a free flowing narrative, but the primary recording should be around observations and discussions. The following may be helpful for prompts:

- Observations of how the child/young person interacts with their caregivers
- The views of the child which should be clearly recorded in bold and italic
- Views of the caregiver
- Challenge safeguarding concerns
- Assess stability of home environment
- Review of the actions from the care plan and progress made if CIN or Early Help plan in place
- Significant events since the last visit

Direct work:

- Any direct work being undertaken and progress of the work, the case note must include an analysis of the work and the direct work must be uploaded to ICS in the document section

Analysis:

What's working well:

- The record must not be brief lists of issues, but needs to contain a narrative and analysis of the issues discussed
- Include what is adding safety for the child, what progress is being made towards the safety goal and what progress is being made against the actions in the CIN/Early Help Plan
- Any new strengths identified or positive actions by the safety network
- If this is a home visit for an assessment, detail what strengths and safety you and the family have identified. Also add who in the family might be part of a safety network and what safety they can add for the child/ren.

What are we worried about:

- Again, it should not be a brief list of issues, but needs to contain a narrative and analysis of the issues
- Should consider this against the actions in the CIN/Early Help Plan
- Any evidence of new harm to be recorded
- If this is a home visit for an assessment, try to establish what is factually accurate from the 'what we are worried about' information gathered by the safeguarding hub, and update the worries/past harm as needed

Action:

What needs to happen – next steps:

Any changes to plan and intervention following visit.

Date of next CIN/home visit:

The family should be clear about the date of the next visit

Child in Need Home Visit – example

Reason for Contact:

CIN/Home visit – Unannounced CIN visit to complete three houses direct work tool with child

Home conditions have deteriorated since last planned home visit

Detailed Notes:

Child A & B both at home during the visit and were being cared for by mum.

The home conditions today were poor. There was clutter in every room, dirty washing was piled up on the floors, and the bins were over-flowing. Mother was emotional and saying she was struggling to get out of bed, and this was why the home conditions have deteriorated.

Despite parents working with Barnardo's House Proud, they are not following the actions on the plan to help them keep on top of the household chores. Moving forward, we need to pull

together a family network meeting to see if they can offer support whilst mother is feeling low in mood.

Mother was sat in the living room and the children were playing with their toys but she wasn't interacting with them. They kept looking at her and were conscious of her being upset. They were arguing over toys, and mother did not separate them.

Due to mother's low mood and the fact father was at work, Maternal Grandmother was called and she shared she wasn't aware mother was struggling otherwise she would have been round. She said until she gets Mother to a GP to review her medication, that she would be present when father was at work to ensure the children remain safe.

Direct Work:

The My Three Houses tool was focused on the home conditions and how the child feels about the way the home looks.

House of worries: My Mammy gets upset and sometimes stays in her bed, my Daddy then gets angry that she doesn't help him clean the house or make us food.

House of good things: My Mammy and Daddy make my tea after school. I now have a nice new bed that I can sleep in.

House of dreams: Mammy and Daddy to paint my bedroom pink, and have princess bedding.

Analysis:

What's working well:

The children have been able to talk through direct work about what their specific worries are in relation to the home conditions.

Maternal Grandmother, once aware of Mother's mood, was proactive in supporting her to get to the GP and care for the children.

What are we worried about:

Mother is emotionally unavailable. She is struggling with her mental health and when her partner is at work she has sole care of the children.

The long term impact of Mother's mental health upon the home conditions. House Proud work is currently not being implemented by parents and the conditions are deteriorating. This is leading to an unsafe and;]

Parent's relationship is strained due to mother's low mood and father feeling he is taking on parenting tasks despite being at work all day.

The children are fully aware of mother's low mood and the arguments between parents, which will be worrying them.

Action:

What needs to happen – next steps:

Family safety plan to be in place until there is an improvement in mother's mental health and she seeks support from her GP.

Date of next CIN/Home visit: Unannounced visit next week