**Children subject to Supervision Orders**

**Legal Framework (Children Act 1989, Section 31)**

When a child is made subject to a Supervision Order this means that the court has made a finding that the child has suffered or is likely to have suffered significant harm.

Supervision Orders are time limited and may be extended where needed on an application to the court. A Supervision Order is usually made for 12 months, however, can be made for a lesser period. The Order may also be extended upon application for up to three years.

A Supervision Order allows the Local Authority to appoint a supervisor, who will advise, assist and befriend the supervised child(ren).

A Supervision Order gives the local authority three specific duties:

* To advise, assist and befriend the child.
* To take all reasonable steps to see that the order is given effect,
* To consider whether to apply for a variation or discharge of the order where it is not being wholly complied with or the authority considers that the order may no longer be necessary.

**Supervision Order Plan**

There is a Supervision Order Plan that has been prepared at a national level for authorities to use to create consistency and oversight on planning for children subject to Supervision Orders. The plan is to be filed alongside the final evidence. These are to be introduced from October 2023 with the plan being used on all children where the plan is a Supervision Order from January 2024.

**Management of Supervision Order**

Cases are allocated to social workers, who will visit, advise, assist and befriend the child, support the family to ensure that the action plan to improve the welfare of the child within the home is undertaken. These cases are generally managed under the [Child in Need](http://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/glossary-cs/) framework. However, cases are considered on a case-by-case basis for management under the Child Protection, and it may be necessary to consider a Child Protection Conference if the level of risk begins to escalate.

**The Supervision Order needs to be recorded under Legal Orders in ICS following the order being made which must include the expected expiry date.**

**A CIN Plan should: -**

* Reflect the plan approved within the court.
* Identify developmental needs of the child(ren) and any services required.
* Include specific, achievable, child focussed outcomes intended to promote and safeguard the child.
* Include realistic strategies/specific actions in order to achieve the identified outcomes.
* Identify the relevant person/agency to assist with achieving the relevant action with clear timescales being set against each action.
* It is expected that the frequency of home visits will take place at least every 4 weeks
* All Child in Need/Child Protection meetings/Supervision Order meetings should have clear minutes available to ensure that actions are clearly understood by the child/young person, their family and professionals and the plan on ICS should be updated after each meeting has taken place. Professionals and family members should be sent a record of the meeting.

**Internal reviews**

There will be monthly supervision on all children subject to Supervision Orders between Team Manager and Social Worker.

There is an internal case review at **3 months**, chaired by the Team Manager. The Team Manager will consider the progress of the safety/support plan and the visiting schedule. If the child is subject to Child Protection Plan, then this will be chaired by the Child Protection Chair.

After the 3 month review, home visits should continue to take place at least monthly during the period of the supervision order.

**N.B.** *for a 6 months Supervision Order, the 3 month review will be carried out by a Service Manager who will consider whether to end or return to legal gateway to request returning to court to extend the Supervision Order or seek a Care Order*.

At **6 months,** a second review of progress is completed by the Service Manager who will consider the progress of the safety/support plan and visiting schedule. An updated assessment is to be completed by the 8 month prior to the 9-month review. If the child is subject to a Child Protection Plan the Child Protection Chair may chair or will be invited to share views on the plan.

At **9 months**, there is a final review of the Supervision Order, chaired by either the Senior Manager or Service Manager. Consideration should be given at this review to end the Supervision Order on the expiry of the Order or to returning to legal gateway panel to request returning to court to extend the Supervision Order or seek a Care Order. If the plan is to seek an extension the Service/Senior Manager will set another date for a review to ensure that there is no drift/delay and order is reflected with ICS.

The decision from this review/oversight will inform the actions at the final/next CIN meeting. If concerns have reduced the children may be stepped down to Early Help provision or the case may be closed.

The Supervision Order Proforma will supersede the Child in Need and Child Protection proforma’s already in place for the Child in Need and Child Protection Panels held in district. However, the meetings to review the Supervision Order may take place within these meetings to prevent duplication.

**Following each review point, a Supervision Order Proforma will be completed and uploaded in documents on the child’s file. The relevant Manager/persons should add Management oversight in case notes, which also refers to where to locate the proforma.**