Case No.

 LA/SW Initials/No. of Statement

 Dated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Filed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the Family Court

Sitting at

In the Matter of the Children Act 1989

Child/ren Concerned: *Name (DOB )*

 **STATEMENT OF *Name of Social Worker***

1. **INTRODUCTION**
	1. I am a social worker employed by X Council’s Children’s Services based in the X team at address details. I am registered with the HCPC and my registration number is: details. I hold the following qualifications and experience: *details.*
	2. I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of the applicant and do so from the facts within my knowledge, information from my colleagues and from Children’s Services records.
	3. I make this statement in support of X Council’s application for a care/supervision order in respect of the following children:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of Birth** | **Child’s Placement Address** | **Child’s Legal Status** |
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* 1. *If applicable* Application is also made for interim care orders in respect of the children with a view to placement *details of proposed placement e.g in local authority foster care*.
	2. I have been the allocated social worker for the child/ren since *date*. *If you have taken over from someone else explain when they were the social worker for the child/ren and why you became allocated e.g. have left the Council.*

**Summary of Reasons why Order/s being Sought**

* 1. *This should be a succinct summary of the reasons for the application setting out the general nature of the case. If seeking removal under an interim care order, set out the reasons why the child’s welfare requires immediate separation.*
1. **CASE DETAILS**
	1. **Family Composition**

*This section should include family members and relationships, especially the primary carers and significant adults/other children and should specify the relationship in respect of each child subject to the application. Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth, their nationality, ethnicity and their current addresses.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Relationship** | **PR** | **DOB** | **Nationality & Ethnicity** | **Address** |
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**2.2 Genogram *(mandatory)(but format may be adapted)***

Include family members and their relationship to each child

Include all other relatives

**Key:**

Female

Male

*This should be a* ***comprehensive*** *genogram. It should be easily read and can be an inserted page and set out landscape.*

1. **THE SOCIAL WORK CHRONOLOGY**

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| * *List significant events which can be evidenced*
* *Focus on the last two years unless prior events are significant.*
 |

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| **Date** | **Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child’s welfare** | **Significance** |
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| **Date** | **Significant events happening in the near future which are relevant for the child (e.g. the transition from primary to secondary school)** | **Source of evidence or document reference** | **Significance** |
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1. **PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Description of assessment/intervention** | **Date** | **Outcome and effectiveness** |
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*Also include date of letter before proceedings if relevant and any assessments or interventions completed during the pre-proceedings process.*

1. **ANALYSIS OF RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

*The welfare checklist should be applied as appropriate throughout*

*Evidence can be primary (yours), or secondary (where you analyse what others say and think). If applicable, include here analysis of reasons for seeking removal under interim care order.*

* 1. **The social work analysis of the harm the child (or each child) has suffered and/or any risk of harm the child continues to face, including the analysis of the event/s that led to the application.**

5.1.1

**5.2 Child Impact Analysis (for each individual child)**

*Describe the effect on the child of the harm identified in 5.1. This should include a description of the child’s daily life and experience during the period under consideration.*

5.2.1

**5.3 Are there any factors which mitigate the risk identified in 5.1 including support available for the care of the child.**

5.3.1

**5.4 Analysis of the child’s needs, considering the welfare checklist.** *E.g. education, emotional and behavioural development, identity, routine, self-care, boundaries, safety. Set out the steps taken to meet these needs e.g. any services provided and their outcomes (or their intended outcomes)*

5.4.1

**5.5 The child’s wishes and feelings and how these have been identified**

5.5.1

**5.6 The child’s participation in the court case**

*Set out the appropriate level of involvement in the author’s judgment, with reasons.*

1. **ANALYSIS OF THE EVIDENCE OF PARENTING CAPABILITY**

**Analysis of each parent’s capability to meet each child’s needs, including analysis of any capability gap and whether/how this can be bridged in the timetable for the child.** *Include unrelated members of the household/s where relevant.*

* 1. **Mother**

6.1.1

* 1. **Father**

6.2.1

* 1. **Other Person with Parental Responsibility**

6.3.1

1. **ANALYSIS OF THE EVIDENCE OF WIDER FAMILY AND FRIENDS CAPABILITY**

**Analysis of the evidence of wider family and friends’ capability to meet each child’s needs, including analysis of the evidence of any capability gap and whether/how this can be bridged in the child’s timescale**.

*Guidance: key considerations for a viability assessment*

1. *Paragraph 5.3 should identify those relatives who are already protective contacts for the child. The genogram should be comprehensive and inclusive.*
2. *The initial viability – for being a permanent carer – should be extended by three further tests before a full assessment is carried out in compliance with the specific set of current regulations which apply to the proposed permanent placement e.g. Special Guardianship Regs or Fostering Regs.*
3. *The three additional viability tests are:*
* *That the carer understands in broad terms the needs of the child subject to proceedings*
* *That the carer understands the level and type of care the child will need throughout their childhood as a consequence of their experiences*
* *That the carer expresses an authentic willingness to be part of the team around the child until matters are fully resolved.*

7.1

1. **THE PROPOSED CARE PLAN – ANALYSIS OF REALISTIC OPTIONS**

*In practice “realistic” means anyone who is still putting themselves forward as a carer regardless of how negative the social work assessment unless the court has expressly ruled them out. You need not consider, for example, those no longer putting themselves forward, those with lengthy prison sentences etc. Those excluded for these reasons, or excluded by the court should be referred to at 8.2.*

* *To be defined as realistic the proposed placement at the heart of the court care plan must be assessed as sufficiently resilient and sustainable to justify the label of “permanent”. A robust filtering process is required to ensure each option assessed as realistic meets that standard.*
* *In care proceedings, no arbitrary numerical limit can be placed on the number of realistic options available for the child, but one option must always be preferred. A clear reason or reasons must always be given for this preferred status in the body of the document.*
* *Preferred status means that on the assessments and evidence available, the preferred placement should offer the child the prospect of recovering from any trauma she or he has experiences: personal growth and development within a family where the child id guaranteed unconditional love; strong educational prospects, good health outcomes, and, as far as can be predicated, one or more positive lifelong attachments/s which promote the child’s unique identify.*
* *Determining the rank order between the realistic options is a matter of professional judgment about the relative importance to the child of various attributes of the carers and/or the relationship between the carers and the child, or the carers, child and birth parent/s.*
* *Where the analysis relates to an interim care plan consideration should similarly be given to alternative placements available for the child and reg 24 assessments should be considered where appropriate.*

8.1 A table of the realistic placement options and the preferred option is set out within the Care Plan Analysis attached to this statement.

8.2 List of options discounted as they were assessed to be unrealistic:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discounted option** | **Reason why discounted** |
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8.3 **The Contact Plan**

*The contact plan must be kept under review as circumstances change. (Copy table and repeat for each child. If the details are the same for more than one child, include names together).*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child** | **Who contact is with and their relationship to the child** | **Brief rationale for the level of contact proposed** | **Level of support/supervision required** | **Frequency and duration** |
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1. **THE VIEWS OF PARTIES AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**
* *Set out and analyse individual views about what should happen for the child/ren in the future.*
* *This section also has a vital opinion-sharing purpose.*

**9.1 Mother’s Views**

9.1.1

**9.2 Father’s Views**

9.2.1

**9.3 Views of Wider Family Members**

9.3.1

**9.4 Views of Other Parties or Significant Others e.g. Cafcass, the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), Court Appointed Experts**

9.4.1

1. **CASE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND PROPOSALS**

*List any case management issues e.g. delay factors, special factors relevant for the child, vulnerability of any key participant, any further proposed assessments including why they are necessary etc.*

1. **STATEMENT OF PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS**

*Have the contents of this statement been communicated to mother, father, significant others, and the child in a way which can be clearly understood? If not, what has been tried?*

1. **SIGNATURE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Print full name |  |
|  |  |
| Role/position held |  |

 **I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed |  |
|  |  |
| Date |  |  |

**8.2 INTERIM/FINAL CARE PLAN ANALYSIS**

**FOR**

**[name of child, date of birth]**

**This document is to be attached to the social work statement and may also be provided to the Agency Decision Maker and/or used for Life Story work where appropriate.**

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| 1. **Placement with mother** *type of order; timescale; supervision order needed? [insert name and other details set out here*]
 |
| **Advantages**  | **Disadvantages** |
|  | *Any risk involved and, if so, give details?* |
| **Services which would be required to support this placement option***(set out details of services which would be required to support the placement options and meet the risk identified and whether this would be practicable)* |
| **2.** **Placement with father** *type of order; timescale; supervision order needed? [insert name and other* *details set out here]* |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |
| **Services which would be required to support this placement option***(set out details of services which would be required to support the placement options and meet the risk identified and whether this would be practicable)* |
|  **3. Placement with mother and father together** *type of order; timescale; supervision order needed? [insert name and other* *details set out here]* |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |
| **Services which would be required to support this placement option***(set out details of services which would be required to support the placement options and meet the risk identified and whether this would be practicable)* |
| **4. Placement with connected others including foster carer** *type of order; timescale; supervision order needed? [insert name and other details set out above here] insert further box for each connected pe*rson] |
| **Advantages**  | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |
| **Services which would be required to support this placement option***(set out details of services which would be required to support the placement options and meet the risk identified and whether this would be practicable)* |
| **5. Placement outside family** *type of order; timescale; identified person? Any risk involved and, if so, give details?**[insert name if appropriate and other details set out above here]* |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |
| **Services which would be required to support this placement option***(set out details of services which would be required to support the placement options and meet the risk identified and whether this would be practicable)* |
| **PREFERRED OPTION***(Give reasons. This must be based on a global and holistic analysis)* |

Prepared by: [name]

Social worker

 Dated: