

4 Children who require a Child Protection Plan

4.1 The Purpose of the List/Register of Children who have a Child Protection Plan

The purpose of the list/register of children who have a Child Protection Plan is to:

- provide a record of all children in the area who are considered to be at continuing risk of significant harm, and for whom a Child Protection Plan is currently being implemented
- provide a central point of speedy enquiry, available 24 hours a day, for professional staff who are concerned that a child may be at risk of significant harm and want to know whether the child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan or is the subject of a Care Order, Supervision Order or interim Care Order
- aid diagnosis of a sequence of injuries or events which might not otherwise be considered related or seen as a pattern of repeated abuse, by keeping a record of enquiries
- prompt a referral to Children's Social Care when two enquiries from agencies are made about a family in a **2 year period**. Please see Section 4.2.
- aid good communication and co-ordination between agencies
- enable the collection and analysis of information locally and nationally, to inform policy development and strategic planning

The contents of the list/register of children who have a Child Protection Plan remain confidential other than to legitimate enquirers, for example, staff of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board member agencies.

The list/register of children who have a Child Protection Plan is maintained on behalf of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board.

4.2 Checking the List/Register of Children who have a Child Protection Plan

Where there are specific child welfare concerns or allegations about a child, professionals must make an enquiry to the list/register of children who have a Child Protection Plan.

An enquiry to the list/register involves a two way exchange of information. The enquirer is informed of all relevant information held about a child or family, and the list/register records relevant information about the enquirer and reason for their concern. The list/register should contain a chronological record of all previous enquiries about a child, which could assist the enquirer in deciding what action, if any, is needed.

A separate record is kept of enquiries, in addition to the record of children who have a Child Protection Plan. The enquiry record is kept for **two years**. If a second enquiry is made about the same child within this time period, the List/Register Custodian will ensure that a referral is made to the Children's Social Care. An initial assessment should then be considered, in order to establish whether the child is in need, or at risk of significant harm.

Professionals should be aware that an enquiry to the list/register does not constitute a referral to Children's Social Care.

4.3 How to Access the List/Register

During office hours enquires should be made to staff in the Safeguarding Children Unit on (01709) 822390.

Out of hours enquiries should be made to Children's Social Care Access Team on (01709) 364689.