

Safeguarding Children - Glossary of Terms

Accommodated Children	Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 enables a local authority to provide accommodation for a child who has no person with parental responsibility for him/her, is lost or abandoned or whose parent cannot provide suitable accommodation and care. 16/17 yr olds should also be offered the opportunity to become looked after under sec 20
Adoption	A legal process by which a child becomes a permanent and full member of a new family. The biological parents lose parental responsibility and the new parents obtain parental responsibility.
Care Order	A court order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 placing a child in local authority care to protect the child from harm they are suffering or may suffer, whilst under the care of his/her parent (and/or being beyond a parent's control).
Child in Need	Defined under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 as: "Those children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services". Note: this includes all children who have a disability.
Child Protection	Refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. This is enshrined within Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Child Protection Case Conference	A multi-agency meeting to establish whether the child should become the subject to a child protection plan.
Child Protection Plan	For all those children who have been identified at a child protection conference as being at a continuing risk of significant harm, a Child Protection Plan will be created. This is a plan setting out what steps and provisions are needed to safeguard a child's welfare and minimize all risks of harm to a child.
Child Protection Register(CPR)	In April 2008, the Child Protection Register ceased to exist. The term now used is 'children subject to a Child Protection Plan'.
Contact Order	A legally binding order requiring the resident party/parent to make the child available for contact with the person named in the Order.
Emergency Protection Order (EPO)	A court order under Section 44 of the Children Act 1989 giving Children's Social Care the power to protect a child from harm by removing the child to suitable accommodation or preventing a child from being removed (e.g. from hospital).
Interim Care Order (ICO)	Time limited court order which places a child in care of the local authority under the Children Act 1989 to be renewed by the court after no more than 8 weeks and then every 4 weeks
Looked After Child (LAC) Children in Care (CiC)	When a child is "in care" on a statutory basis, or "accommodated" on a voluntary basis by the local authority. The child may be in a foster or residential home or placed at home. Some children maybe a child in care but still residing with their parents

Parental Responsibility	A legal term from section 3(1) of the Children Act 1989, meaning 'all the rights, duties, powers and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.' Always held by the mother and also by a father where the parents are married. An unmarried father also acquires parental responsibility if he becomes registered as the child's father (for a child born after 01/12/03), or through a legal order. Parental responsibility is only removed from parents completely at the point if the child is adopted. PR is also acquired by the local authority if the court commits the child to its care.
Police Protection Powers	Police Protection is an emergency power under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 which enables any police officer to protect a child who is reasonably believed to be at risk of significant harm for up to 72 hours. Such powers have to be authorised by an officer of Inspector Rank or above
Professionals meeting?	A multi-agency professionals meeting is a tool to support practitioners in all agencies who have a genuine desire to work openly with families, but who may need the opportunity to talk with other professionals without the family being present.
Public Law Outline	This came into force with effect from 6th April 2010 following on from previous statutory guidance for local authorities effective from 2008, which resulted from the Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales. The Public Law Outline sets out streamlined case management procedures for dealing with public law children's cases. The aim is to identify and focus on the key issues for the child, with the aim of making the best

	<p>decisions for the child within the timetable set by the Court, and avoiding the need for unnecessary evidence or hearings.</p>
<p>Strategy Meeting/discussion</p>	<p>The purpose of a strategy meeting/discussion is to decide whether the threshold has been met for a single or joint agency (CSC and Police) child protection investigation, and to plan that investigation when it is believed a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, serious harm. The meeting/discussion will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •decide whether, or how, section 47 enquiries should be pursued and produce a plan for carrying out the enquiries •agree an interim multi-agency plan to adequately safeguard the child or children during the period between the strategy meeting/discussion and the initial child protection conference (15days from strategy meeting/discussion) <p>The plan made at the strategy meeting/discussion should reflect the requirement to convene an initial child protection conference within 15 working days of the strategy discussion that decided to initiate section 47 enquiries.</p>