



Overarching Principles:

- Any child who is subject to an Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) must have an agreed multi-agency Interim Safety Plan (ISP) that is recorded from the start of the IRD.
- The purpose of an ISP is to ensure that there is an identified plan of protective action to minimise the identified risks and maximise the immediate safety of the child and allow for a further period of assessment or investigation to take place.
- Parents/carers, children and young people (where appropriate) should be supported to contribute to the planning – identifying solutions to reduce risk and maximise safety. If it is not possible or appropriate to involve the above parties, the e-IRD record should clearly outline the rationale for decision making.
- The ISP should be updated as necessary (proportionate to the current assessment and analysis of risk) and last until the conclusion of the IRD or until a Child Protection Planning Meeting or any other risk management meeting has taken place ie Care and Risk Management Meeting (CaRM), IRD Strategic Planning Meeting etc.
- The ISP must identify the alleged source of risk to the child and clearly state who will speak that individual or individuals about their role in the significant harm or risk of significant harm or record the decision making where this is not possible or appropriate.
- The ISP must identify any protective factors that are in place for the child and clearly identify who is responsible for any actions as well as the monitoring of the plan. The content of the ISP should also be shared with the Named Person and any other key professionals who may be supporting the ISP.
- The ISP must remain up to date and reflect any change in the child's circumstances and/or updated information throughout the investigation or assessment.

Interim Safety Plan (ISP) - Checklist:

- The ISP must state who is going to visit the child in their home/current environment, a minimum of weekly for the duration of the ISP.
- The ISP must be discussed and shared with the child, if over the age of 5, and the parent(s) and/or carers.
- The ISP must clearly state and record who will speak to the child on their own about the risks relating to the IRD during the period of the ISP.
- There must be a record that the parents; carers; protective adults and alleged source of risk (where safe and/or appropriate) understand and agree with the ISP.
- The IRD must ensure each agency contributes and records clear actions/timescales and who is doing what for the duration of the ISP. For example, record that the school or nursery are aware they should contact Social Work if the child does not attend as expected. If a child subject to an ISP is absent, a home visit should be undertaken within 24 hours, depending on the level of risk and concern.
- The ISP must identify who the protective adults are and ensure they are clear about their role and how they will assist in the monitoring and protection of the child for the duration of the ISP.
- The ISP must include details of any bail conditions and agree contingences should these be breached.
- Each agency must update the ISP as and when necessary or as agreed by the IRD team throughout the duration of the IRD.
- The ISP must set out a clear contingency plan in the event of further concerns or increased risk.
- The planning of the ISP must consider any associated service generated risks.
- Contact details of all involved parties must be clear.

Recording and Communicating the ISP

The ISP must be recorded within the **IRD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN** section of the E-IRD record. Rationale for decision making must be clearly reflected in the E-IRD recording. The ISP must be updated by all agencies throughout the investigation / assessment as required. In addition to recording on the E-IRD the ISP must also be recorded on the client recording system for social work which is currently swift and will be replaced by Mosaic.

It will be the responsibility of the professionals involved in the IRD to disseminate the agreed multi-agency ISP to the relevant people within their agency, child/relevant family member/network and other agencies involved and ensure they are updated of any changes made to the plan.