

Title:	Child Protection Visits Undertaken by the Disabled Children's Team
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Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler
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Lead Officer:	Phil DiLeo Additional Needs and Disabilities Service
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Ward(s) affected: All	Non Key Decisions
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1. Background information:

1.1. Number of Child Protection Cases held within the Disabled Children's team (DCT):

There are currently 11 children subject to Child Protection Plans.

1.2. Frequency of visits:

Ten of the cases are on fortnightly visits and one is on weekly visits.

1.3. Whether any were part of a sibling group:

There are seven children with disabilities and three of these children have siblings totalling five children.

1.4. A review of performance over the last six months is as follows:

July All visits were made but one visit was not recorded as CP visit as child was placed on a plan in preparation for discharge from hospital but did not go home until Sept.

August All visits made and recorded within timescale

September Five children did not have visits recorded. These included a sibling group of three children who were newly made subject to plan and there was a misunderstanding regarding the frequency of visits; one child was in hospital during the period and the fifth was visited but it was not recorded. The Social Worker left the service so this was not rectified.

October	All visits made and recorded within timescale
November	All visits made and recorded within timescale
December	All visits were made but recording was not made on the non-disabled child in a sibling group. This has now been completed.

1.5. The changes to be implemented to strengthen the team's focus on completing visits within timescales:

1.5.1. All Social Workers in the DCT are aware that CP visits must be made and recorded within timescales to ensure positive outcomes for children with disabilities. They are clear about the purpose of the visits and timely recording that this is a service standard and failure to comply is a failure to safeguard children. All social workers have a template to complete after the visits. The team works collaboratively to ensure that visits are prioritised and cover is provided if for any reason a Social Worker is unable to make their visit.

1.5.2. Monitoring systems include team managers:

- Checking that CP visits are in electronic diaries each month and are in good time to allow recording within timescales.
- Discussing performance at weekly team meetings
- Discussing visits and outcomes in supervision.

1.5.3. One example of lessons learned from recent supervision is the need for Induction to the DCT to include specific guidance on writing up CP visits which involve sibling groups. This arose from the case with a new Social Worker to the team in December where although all the visits were made on time the recording was only made on the disabled child's file.

1.5.4. Additional training will be delivered for the Admin officers on running monitoring reports to ensure accurate and up to date management information is available.

1.5.5. It has also been agreed that the monthly performance reports for the Children and Families Service will include a separate service comment on the performance of the DCT.