

Chronology



What is it?

In its simplest terms a chronology is a list in date order of all the significant changes and events in a child's life.

It aims to provide a clear account, based on facts, of the significant events that have likely had an impact on a child's life experiences.

Why is a Chronology Important?

An accurate chronology can assist the process of assessment and review. It is a tool that can be used to understand the impact, both immediately and cumulatively of events and changes in a child's life.

Chronologies bring information together and support practitioners to understand and identify when and where significant events occurred and to analyse what may have appeared insignificant at the time could become highly significant and relevant with information shared recently.

What is a Significant Event?

Practitioners are required to use their professional judgement to record events that have or are likely to have an impact on a child's lived experiences and these events can be both positive and negative.

Examples of Significant Events:

- A contact or referral received by the Integrated Front Door Team or referral to other agencies
- Meetings, including, Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC's), Child Looked After (CLA) Reviews and Strategy Meetings. Practitioners being clear to record concise and significant points from the meeting rather than just that a meeting occurred
- Non accidental and significant injuries even where history is justified, attendance at A&E, attendance at out of hour surgeries, changes to weight loss/gain and frequent cancellation of appointments or non-attendance
- Births and deaths of family members and significant adults. Additions of adults into the family home and changes to address
- Changes to educational settings, exclusions, non-attendance, regularly late, collection and pick up by varying adults
- Periods of missing from home, attempted suicide or self-injury, use of substances (Alcohol and drugs), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) concerns
- Domestic abuse incidents, incidents of anti-social behaviour, criminal proceedings
- Disclosure from a child or any other party detailing harm or abuse

Why do we need Chronologies?

The importance of clear and accurate case recording has been an on-going issue within safeguarding children services and with partner agencies since the 1970's and continues to feature in more recent inquiries and Child Safeguarding Reviews (CSR).

Where a child has suffered significant harm or has died, inquiries and Child Safeguarding Reviews (CSR) question the information known to all agencies prior to an incident to understand if the information known was acted upon and shared to reduce possible risk and injury to a child.

All agencies are responsible for compiling and regularly updating a chronology of their involvement with a child and their family. To aid understanding of the impact of the significant events, chronologies should be shared with each agency so that a comprehensive understanding can be achieved.

Information:

- [NSPCC Serious Case Reviews](#)
- [Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- [Bolton Child Care online procedures](#)

For more information...

Please contact Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership at www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk

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