

5.3.10.3 Discontinuing a child protection plan

The conference should use the same decision-making process to reach a judgement for when a protection plan is no longer needed. This includes situations where other inter-agency planning might need to replace a protection plan.

A child may no longer need a protection plan if:

- A review conference judges that the child is no longer at risk of significant harm and no longer requires safeguarding by means of a child protection plan;
- The child has moved permanently to another local authority when a protection plan can only cease after the receiving authority has convened a transfer child protection conference and confirmed in writing responsibility for case management;
- The child has reached eighteen years of age, has died or has been judged to have permanently left the UK, when their name can be removed.

It is permissible for the Safeguarding Unit IRO manager to agree the discontinuing of a child protection plan without the need to convene a child protection review conference only when:

- One or other of the latter two criteria in section 10.14 above are satisfied; and
- The manager has consulted with relevant agencies present at the conference that first concluded that a child protection plan was required.

When the process carried out at section 10.15 is followed, the consultation with other agencies and the decision to discontinue the child protection plan must be clearly recorded in the Children's social care child's record.

When a child is no longer subject of a child protection plan, notification should be sent, as a minimum, to the agencies' representatives who were invited to attend the initial conference that led to the plan.

When a child protection plan is discontinued, the key worker must discuss with the parents and child/ren what services might be wanted and required, based on the re-assessment of the needs of the child and family. A child in need meeting should be arranged and the lead professional identified to develop a child in need plan for any continuing support. The plan should be reviewed at regular intervals of no more than every six months.