

What impact do we have on the lives of children, young people and their families?

As practitioners can we articulate verbally or through a child's record the difference we and other professionals make to a child's lived experience?

Briefing: It is important that we consider the positive **impact** we have on the children and families we work with – however big or small the **impact** is.

Considering the **impact** will help us evaluate whether or not we are doing the right thing. If we are not making a difference what is the value in our intervention? This should apply to all staff when entering a record – whether you are an IRO, Team Manager, Social Worker, Supervising Social Worker, Family Support Worker, Family First Practitioner, Head of Service or member of the Virtual School - you should know the **impact** the service is having and be able to write about it. When writing case notes that reflect progress in a child's life please use the word **impact** and write it in bold so that it jumps out of the page. It should help you as a practitioner understand the 'child's daily lived experience' that should be evidenced throughout your case records. This will really support the strengths based approach and is consistent with Signs of Safety.

Each time the case summary is updated (every three months) include a section on **impact**; for example a child was suffering from neglect and the impact of this was tooth decay, uncared for presentation, and poor home conditions and poor school attendance. However, since a plan has been in place the child is now going to school, is achieving academically, is clean, has been treated by the dentist and is much happier. The case summary guidance has been updated to reflect this requirement.

By focusing on **impact** children, young people and their families will be better able to understand the reason for our involvement and the difference we make.

Please see below for an example of a case note demonstrating **impact**:

Reason for Contact	Case heard at MAP- plan of permanence recommended by panel for Eva to remain in the care Mr and Mrs Jones. Decision will be reviewed by ADM following this panel. <u>Positive Outcome evident for Eva.</u>
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Detailed Notes

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The panel recognised that the placement of Eva is exceptional, and that she is offered great placement stability, with a loving and secure attachment between her and the family.

Eva is achieving well in education.

Eva is accessing relevant therapy in relation to her experiences of sexual abuse and sexual harm.

Eva is having a planned transition to high school and her PEP is of an excellent standard.

Eva has positive contact with her mother, jointly supervised by the carer Laine and her allocated social worker.

Eva has on going life story work with her allocated social worker and has a good insight about why she is in local authority care.

The small community in which Eva is placed offers her stability and safe options with the support of her carer to have age appropriate relationships.

Part 2 - Write Up

Analysis of information

Action

This decision will be sent to the Assistant Director for ratification, but there is no expected issues given the excellent evidence base about how this placement is matched well with Eva and is ensuring her good opportunity to have positive outcomes and demonstrates a commitment for her to have good aspirations for her future.

Ann Clarkson

Head of Service

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