

Criteria and Advocacy Pathway

Parent's advocacy supports parents who have a significant difficulty being involved in the process to fully engage with assessments and to understand the complex statutory processes within Children's Social Care.

Referrals can only be made by Stoke-on-Trent Children's Social Care. In order to be eligible for a Parents Advocate, the person requiring support must be the parent of a child/children that are open to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Children's Social Care and the person requiring support has a diagnosed Learning Disability which leads to them having substantial difficulty in one or more of the following areas:

- Understanding relevant information
- Using or weighing up information
- Retaining information
- Communicating their views, wishes and feelings and there is no one appropriate or available to facilitate the person's active involvement in the process.

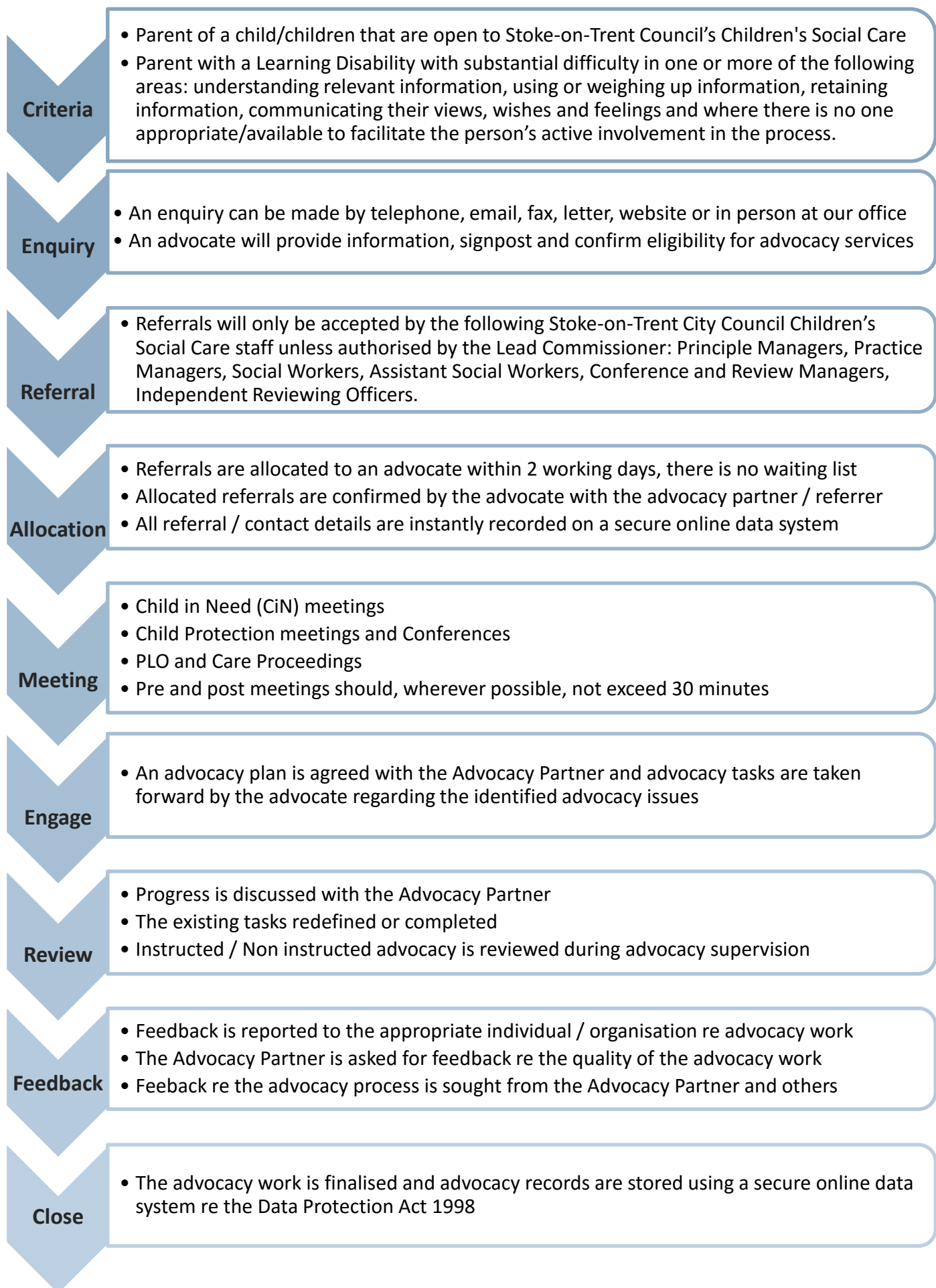
Referrals will only be accepted by the following Stoke-on-Trent City Council Children's Social Care staff unless authorised by the Lead Commissioner:

- Principle Managers
- Practice Managers
- Social Workers
- Assistant Social Workers
- Conference and Review Managers
- Independent Reviewing Officers.

A Parents Advocate will only be provided to give support in the following meetings under each process and pre and post meetings should, wherever possible, not exceed 30 minutes.

- Child in Need (CiN meetings, Pre-meetings, Post meetings, Assessments, PAMS Assessments)
- Child Protection (Pre-meetings, Post meetings, Core Groups, Child Protection Conferences, Assessments, PAMS Assessment)
- PLO and Care Proceedings (Pre-meetings, Post meetings, Statutory Reviews, PLO Meetings, Legal Meetings, Court attendance, PAMS assessments)

A Parent's Advocate will not be provided if the parent resides within the City of Stoke-on-Trent and their child/children are open to a Social Worker in another local authority area. In addition, a Parent's Advocate cannot provide support to people outside of the meetings listed above or in relation to issues that do not relate to the statutory assessment and care planning processes within Children's Social Care.



Recognising quality in independent advocacy