

Purpose of the meeting: To have a legally privileged meeting with Head of Service, Legal Services and Panel members to agree the legal Framework we wish to work under.

Before a request to attend LGM, be clear what you are asking for. The Legal Gateway Meeting is **not** a forum - the purpose is to seek approval to the plan - not to create the plan. Speak with your Team Leader or Service Leader for advice.

The Legal Gateway Meeting is held every Wednesday between 2 - 5pm in The View Meeting Room 2 and is chaired by the Head Family Safeguarding

If you wish to attend Legal Gateway then:-

- Send an email to legalgatewaypanel@portsmouthcc.gov.uk requesting a time slot on the date you wish to attend. You will need to provide the name of the child, MOSAIC no. and the reason you wish to attend.
- Your date/time slot will be confirmed to you;
- Prior to attendance you will need to provide:
 - an up to date assessment (SAF, PAM, Capacity to Care)
 - Chronology & Genogram (3 generations) to include DOBs
 - Complete the Legal Gateway or Legal Planning template (see below).
 - any other supporting evidence which may be essential for the decision making (e.g. specialist assessment)

Note: All documents should be provided by 12 noon on the Tuesday before you are attending for the Agenda to be prepared and circulated to the panel. If a meeting is set up outside of the Wednesday then papers should be provided at least 24 hours in advance, wherever possible.

Depending on your request, you will need to complete either a Legal Planning Template or a Legal Gateway Template:

Legal Planning Template	<p>- <i>This template outlines the reasons for seeking PLO and the 12 week plan details.</i></p> <p>- <i>This can be cut and pasted into the PLO letter.</i></p> <p>- <i>SW to bring the PLO letter to the meeting to be signed.</i></p>
Legal Gateway Template	<p>- <i>This template outlines the reasons for seeking to make an application to Court and the care plan details.</i></p> <p>- <i>If it is agreed at the LGM to issue proceedings then the SW will be able to cut and paste from this document directly into the Social Work Statement for Court.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All requests for application to Court (except revocation of Placement Order as agreed by ADM through rescinding plan for adoption) should be presented to LGM. • Alongside this, plans to financially support private law application should be presented. 	



One Minute Guide Legal Gateway Meeting (LGM)



Attending Legal Gateway Meeting (LGM) At the meeting:-

1. Introduce yourself

- Social worker
- Team
- Child/Family you wish to talk about

2. Reason for attendance

- To request PLO
- To step down PLO
- To review PLO
- Decision to initiate proceedings
- To discuss a change of plan within proceedings (this should normally be following discussion with the case holding legal representative)

3. What is the current plan for the child?

- What framework are we working under?
- Brief history (periods on CIN/CP or previous PLO)
- Plan from last PLO meeting
- What is the experience for the child?
- Parental strengths and difficulties

4. What have we done to initiate change for the family?

- Interventions and services offered
- Direct work
- Change of social worker
- Regular meetings

5. Ongoing concerns

- Capacity to change
- Impact to child

6. What legal framework do you now consider is required?

- Views of involved professionals/ core group
- Views of parents

Legal advice privilege protects confidential communications between lawyers and their clients for the purposes of giving or obtaining **legal** advice.

For further information:

Email: legalgatewaypanel@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

[It should be noted that through COVID-19 and lockdown legal tracking has happened on Wednesday afternoon via TEAMS, but the Legal gateway Meetings have happened at differing times in the week, by TEAMS.](#)