

1 Why do children and young people need a Chronology of Significant Events?

All major Child Protection enquiry reports, since the mid 1970's, looking at situations where things have gone wrong for the child, have identified the need to be able to see at a glance the main significant factors that have impacted on the child's life. Cases where enquiries have shown this include Western Isles, Victoria Climbié, Baby P, Colvin Evans and Daniel Pelka.

2 What is the purpose and function of a chronology?

A chronology must provide a clear account of events in a child/young person's life to date. This should identify an early indication of an emerging pattern of risk and concern. It should be used as part of assessment and analysis. It should be used in all Team with the Family meetings to discuss progress and highlight gaps that require further exploration, investigation and assessment.

7 Chronology Guidance

There is [National & Care Inspectorate Chronology Guidance](#). The National Guidance covers single agency chronologies and integrated chronologies.

The Care Inspectorate Guidance cites AYRshare as a good practice example of a chronology tool.

There is also a [Chronology Checklist](#) that links to the AYRshare standard.

These should be considered alongside the [Child's Pathway](#) and [Practitioner Guidance](#) and [Team with the Family Guidance](#)



3 Core Elements of a Chronology

- **Key Dates** such as date of birth, moves (area/school), life events.
- **Facts** such as CP registration, exclusion from school, bereavement.
- **Transitions**, life changes.
- **Key Professional Interventions** such as the **outcome** of Team with the Family mtgs, children's hearings etc.
- **A brief note of the event including the impact on the child/young person**

6 A Chronology is NOT

- A replacement for professional judgement
 - A replacement for direct discussion
 - A list of contacts or a diary
- It does not act for you!**

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that any action necessary to support and protect a child or young person is followed through.

AYRshare Quality Assurance Standard 2 Chronologies

AYRshare is the only place that holds the Integrated Chronology of Significant Events and all members of the Team with the Family including the named person & lead professional must share significant events in a timely manner. When a significant event is added all contacts get an e-mail notification which takes them to the event within the integrated chronology. This allows all practitioners to be kept up to date with what is happening in the child/young person's life. The chronology can be sorted and reports pulled to take to Team with the Family meetings to discuss emerging patterns and identified gaps.

4 Compiling a chronology

- Determine the purpose of compiling the chronology e.g. as part of a child's plan, for a learning review etc
- Significant events require to be evidence based and recorded accurately
- Significant events should be recorded as they happen
- The views of children/young people and parents have to be considered when determining the significance for them.