

**Lancashire  
Services**

**Children's**

**"Securing Permanence"**

**Permanence Policy**

**Permanence Procedures & Practice**

**Permanence Tools, Templates and  
Resources**

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# Permanence Policy

## 1. Defining permanence

- 1.1 Permanence is the long term plan for the child's upbringing and provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families. It is defined as a framework of emotional, physical and legal conditions that gives a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity.
- 1.2 Permanence for children and young people has three particular aspects:
  - (a) Legal permanence (ensuring whoever is caring for the child has Parental Responsibility or that there is somebody in a position to effectively exercise Parental Responsibility);
  - (b) Psychological permanence (when the child feels attached to an adult who provides a stable, loving and secure relationship.);
  - (c) Physical or environmental permanence (involves a stable home environment within a familiar neighbourhood and community which meets the child's identity needs).

## 2. Key principles in Permanence Planning

- 2.1 Wherever possible, children and young people should remain at home if safe to do so
- 2.2 Permanence depends on securing the right placement for the right child at the right time and supporting the child to achieve a sense of belonging.
- 2.3 Where possible, care should be provided locally unless it is clearly identified as not in the child's best interests.
- 2.4 Placements for children Looked After should initially be for a short period of time to support and secure a safe and supported return home. If a return to parent's care is not possible however, permanence with extended family members or within the network of family and friends should then be considered. For some children, neither of these options are possible, or in their best interests, and placement outside the family should then be considered as an option for permanence.
- 2.5 Residential group living, in a children's home or supported lodgings placement types, should be provided when a need for this is identified within the Care Plan and when substitute family care or other forms of permanent care are not appropriate.
- 2.6 Spending time with family, friends, Connected Persons and extended family (family time) must be facilitated and built on (unless clearly identified as inappropriate).
- 2.7 When undertaking permanence planning, everyone has a duty to promote the child's links with his or her racial, cultural and religious heritage by promoting placements wherever possible that allows the child to be brought up within the same heritage, cultural and religious environment as his or her birth family. Where this is not

possible, it is important to ensure a placement is identified which can promote links for the child with his or her heritage, culture and religion.

- 2.8 The professionals involved need to support children and young people to understand their origins and their life journey to date, with life story work and later life letter (in the case of adoption).
- 2.9 Professionals involved, including the child's foster carer, will work in partnership with parents/families to meet the above objectives. The wishes and feelings of the child will always be taken into account and where this does not correspond to the assessed needs of the child, the child will always have a voice through an advocate and/or the Independent Reviewing Officer.

### **3. Options for permanence**

Permanence can be achieved in the following ways:

- a. Staying with or returning to birth parent(s);
- b. Placements with Relatives, Friends or other Connected Persons via Child Arrangement Order or a Special Guardianship Order;
- c. Adoption;
- d. Long term Fostering;
- e. Long Term Residential Care (in exceptional circumstances, in line with the child's care plan and with Head of Service approval via permanence panel)
- f. Private Fostering

#### **3.1 Staying/Returning Home**

- 3.1.1 The first stage within permanence planning is work with children and families in need, to support them staying together. Staying at home offers the best chance of stability. Research shows that family preservation has a higher success rate than reunification. This of course has to be balanced against the risk of harm to the child.
- 3.1.2 There are a number of support services available to children and their families in Lancashire to support a permanence plan of staying/returning home.

These include;

- Family Group Conference  
([https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/local\\_resources.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/local_resources.html))
- Adolescent Support Unit
- Outreach Services.

#### **3.2 Placement with Family or Friends/Connected Persons**

- 3.2.1 If a child cannot safely remain at home, every effort must be made to secure a placement with a family member or friend/Connected Person. It is very important to establish at an early stage which relatives or friends might be available to care for the child, to avoid the kind of delays that can happen during court proceedings where this work has not been done. The use of Family Group Conference must be considered and the Placement with Friends and Family Protocol applied- [https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_place\\_conn\\_pers.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_place_conn_pers.html)

### **3.3 Adoption**

- 3.3.1 Adoption transfers Parental Responsibility for the child from the birth parents and others who had Parental Responsibility, including the local authority, permanently and solely to the adopter(s).
- 3.3.2 The child is deemed to be the child of the adopter(s) as if he or she had been born to them. The child's birth certificate is changed to an adoption certificate showing the adopter(s) to be the child's legal parent(s). A child who is not already a citizen of the UK acquires British citizenship if adopted in the UK by a citizen of the UK.
- 3.3.3 Research strongly supports adoption as a major consideration in ensuring the stability of children, especially for those under four years of age who cannot be reunified with their birth or extended family.
- 3.3.4 Consideration should be given to concurrent foster placements or Foster to Adopt foster placement in these specific cases. Attendance at locality early permanence clinic with the Case Progression Manager will consider these as early permanence options
- 3.3.5 See Chapter 7 of the Children' Services Procedures Manual, Tri X;

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/contents.html#fostering\\_adopt](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/contents.html#fostering_adopt)

Placement for Adoption Procedure provides detailed procedures [https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_place\\_adop.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_place_adop.html).

The Relinquished Children Procedure

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_relinquished\\_children.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_relinquished_children.html)

Other relevant procedures to consider include;

- Adoption Support Procedure  
[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_adop\\_support.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_adop_support.html)
- Fostering for Adoption, Concurrent Planning and Temporary Approval as Foster Carers  
[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_foster\\_for\\_adopt.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_foster_for_adopt.html)

### **3.4 Special Guardianship Orders**

- 3.4.1 Special Guardianship addresses the needs of a significant group of children, who need a sense of stability and security within a home away from their parents but not the absolute legal break with their birth family that is associated with adoption. It can also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption is not an option.
- 3.4.2 Special Guardianship Orders offer greater stability and security to a placement than Child Arrangements Orders in that, whilst they are revocable, there are restrictions

on those who may apply to discharge the Order and the leave of the Court, will only be granted where circumstances have changed since the Special Guardianship Order was made.

- 3.4.3 Special Guardians will have Parental Responsibility for the child and, although this will be shared with the child's parents, the Special Guardian will have the legal right to make all day to day arrangements/decisions for the child. The parents will still have to be consulted and their consent required to the child's change of name, adoption, placement abroad for more than 3 months and any other fundamental welfare issues.
- 3.4.4 A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a child who is the subject of a Care Order will automatically discharge the Care Order and the local authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.
- 3.4.5 Special Guardians may be supported financially or otherwise by the local authority and, as with adoptive parents, will have the right to request an assessment for support services at any time after the Order is made.
- 3.4.6 Further detailed information can be found in the Applications for Special Guardianship Orders Procedure.

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_app\\_spec\\_guard.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_app_spec_guard.html)

### **3.5 Child Arrangements Orders**

- 3.5.1 Child Arrangements Orders were introduced in April 2014 by the Children and Families Act 2014 (which amended section 8 Children Act 1989). They replace Contact Orders and Residence Orders and regulate arrangements relating to whom a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have family time; and when a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact with any person.
- 3.5.2 The 'residence' aspects of a Child Arrangements Order (i.e. with whom a child is to live/when a child is to live with any person) can last until the child reaches 18 years unless discharged earlier by the Court or by the making of a Care Order.
- 3.5.3 The 'contact' aspects of a Child Arrangements Order (with whom and when a child is to spend time with or otherwise have contact with) cease to have effect when the child reaches 16 years, unless the court is satisfied that the circumstances of the case are exceptional.
- 3.5.4 Child Arrangements Orders are private law orders, and cannot be made in favour of a Local Authority.
- 3.5.5 Interim Child Arrangements Orders can be made.
- 3.5.6 Whilst support may continue for as long as the Child Arrangements Order remains in force, the aim will be to make arrangements which are self-sustaining in the long run.

### **3.6 Long-term Fostering**

- 3.6.1 For those children who remain Looked After an important means of achieving permanence can be long-term foster care. Where the permanence plan for the child is long-term foster care this may be where the current short-term foster placement is assessed to meet the long term needs of the child for permanence or where a new placement is identified for a child as a result of an assessment and matching process.

- 3.6.2 This option has proved to be particularly useful for older children who retain strong links to their birth families and do not want or need the formality of adoption and where the carers wish for the continued involvement of the local authority.
- 3.6.3 Placements in Foster Care provides details regarding the appropriate making of long-term foster placements.

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_place\\_fost\\_care.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_place_fost_care.html)

### 3.7 Residential care (in specific circumstances)

- 3.7.1 Although residential care is not the preferred permanence option for children and young people (excluding children with disabilities), this may be the right decision based on the needs of the child or young person and a clear assessment to evidence this. A permanence plan of residential care must be presented to Permanence Panel for agreement by Head of Service.

### 3.8 Private Fostering

- 3.8.1 Private Fostering can be a useful option in some circumstances for a time limited period, however the age of the child/ren must be considered carefully and any other supportive private law options explored if this is to be a long term option of permanence.

Further information can be found at chapter 5.4.2 in <https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/contents.html>

### 3.9 Permanence options at a glance

All permanence options have advantages and disadvantages and should be fully explored and considered in line with each individual child's needs

Permanence option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Special Guardianship Order	<p>The carers have enhanced Parental Responsibility and clear authority to make decisions on day to day issues regarding the child's care</p> <p>There is added legal security to the Order, in that, leave is required for parents to apply to discharge the Order and will only be granted if a change of circumstances or some other exceptional reason can be established since the original Order was made</p> <p>It maintains legal links to the birth family</p>	<p>The Order only lasts until the child is 18 and does not necessarily bring with it the same sense of belonging to the Special Guardian's family as an Adoption Order does</p> <p>As the child is not a legal member of the family, if difficulties arise, there may be less willingness to persevere and seek resolution</p> <p>Although there are restrictions on applications to discharge the Order, such an application is possible and may be perceived as a threat to the child's stability.</p>

	<p>The child will no longer be in care and there need be no social worker involvement unless this is identified as necessary, in which case an assessment of the need for support must be made by the relevant local authority.</p>	
Adoption	<p>Parental Responsibility is held exclusively by the carers</p> <p>The child is no longer Looked After</p> <p>No future legal challenge to overturn the Adoption Order is possible</p> <p>The child is a permanent family member into adulthood.</p>	<p>It involves a complete and permanent legal separation from the family of origin</p> <p>It may mean that there can be no ongoing direct family time between the child and his/her birth parents.</p> <p>There is no review process.</p>
Child Arrangements Order	<p>It gives Parental Responsibility to the carer whilst maintaining the parents' Parental Responsibility</p> <p>The child will no longer be Looked After and there need be no social work involvement, therefore, unless this is identified as necessary</p> <p>There is no review process</p> <p>The child will not be Looked After and so less stigma is attached to the placement.</p>	<p>It is less secure than Adoption or Special Guardianship in that an application can be made to vary the Order without first obtaining the leave of the Court. However, the Court making the Order can, in certain circumstances, be asked to attach a condition refusing a parent's right to seek variation without leave of the court;</p> <p>There is no formal continuing support to the family after the Order is made although in some instances, a Child Arrangements Order Allowance may be payable or other support provided by the local authority.</p> <p>There is no professional reviewing of the arrangements after the Order unless a new application to court is made, for example by the parents for contact or variation. New applications to court may be expensive to defend and the carers would have to bear the cost if not entitled to assistance with legal costs</p>
Long term	The local authority retains a role	The foster carers do not hold



fostering	<p>in negotiating between the foster carers and the birth family over issues such as family time.</p> <p>In circumstances where family time cannot be agreed the local authority can impose arrangements that it deems to be reasonable.</p> <p>There is continuing social work support to the child and foster family in a placement that is regularly reviewed to ensure that the child's needs are met</p> <p>It maintains legal links to the birth family who can still play a part in the decision making for the child.</p> <p>Through "Staying Put" the child may have his or her home with the foster carers beyond the age of 18 years.</p>	<p>Parental Responsibility and this may inhibit or complicate decision making</p> <p>Continuing social work involvement can be an intrusion into the child experiencing 'family life'</p> <p>Regular Looked After Reviews must take place which can, sometimes, be regarded as an intrusion in a long standing and stable placement</p> <p>Stigma attached to the child due to being in care.</p> <p>The child is not a legal member of the family. If difficulties arise there may be less willingness to persevere and seek resolution</p> <p>Post care and/or post 18 the carers have no legal responsibility towards the young person.</p>
Residential Care (in specific circumstances)	<p>Some children and young people cannot manage their emotions and behaviours in a family care environment.</p> <p>Residential settings allow the child or young person freedom to explore interpersonal relationships safely and without pressure.</p> <p>Children in residential care have access to trained and skilled professionals to provide support for their ongoing care and emotional support needs without the pressure of a family care situation. The likelihood of placement breakdown is minimised due to this specialised care available.</p> <p>Some children and young people respond well to group living and the structure this can provide.</p>	<p>Stigma attached to the child/young person due to being in a residential care</p> <p>Chance of Institutionalised mindset</p> <p>Can set unrealistic expectations of independent living</p> <p>No option to Staying Put thus potential loss of relationships into adulthood</p>
Private Fostering	Positive short term options in family crisis situations or	Not a good long term permanent option. Parents can terminate the

	<p>education opportunities for children from other Countries</p> <p>Less intrusive state intervention and respect for private and family life.</p> <p>Familiar people and surroundings thus less emotional impact of separation from parents.</p> <p>More likely to be a stable arrangement as parental agreement is needed.</p>	<p>arrangement at any time.</p> <p>Lack of options for the Private Foster carer to make decisions regarding the child's life.</p>
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## Permanence Procedures and Practice

### 4.0 Permanence planning – key stages

#### 4.1 Becoming Looked After

- 4.1.1 If it is assessed that a child/young person is unable to remain in the care of their parents, the social worker requests a Case Management Discussion with their line manager and provides an updated case summary.
- 4.1.2 The manager records the details of the Case Management Discussion on the child's file and ensures all preventative services have been considered prior to approving the matter to be presented to either Legal Planning Panel and/or Senior Manager Panel
- 4.1.3 Where a child is deemed to be at risk of immediate significant harm, urgent discussions should take place outside of established panel arrangements and retrospectively presented to the appropriate panel.

#### 4.2 Senior Manager Panels

- 4.2.1 Senior Manager Panel will be held on either a District or Locality basis, and can be held the same day as Permanence Panel or Legal Planning Panel
- 4.2.2 Child/ren presented to Senior Manager Panel include: financial decisions, section 20 accommodation, any other matters in line with the scheme of delegation
- 4.2.3 The "booking system" for Senior Manager Panel will be managed by Case Support, and the paperwork required is an up to date case summary and record of the Case Management Meeting which agreed for the child/ren to be presented at Senior Manager Panel.
- 4.2.4 The responsible Senior Manager will record the discussion and decisions agreed from Panel on the child's file

#### 4.3 Legal Planning Panel

- 4.3.1 Following manager agreement (via Case Management Meeting) to seek legal advice, the social worker completes the **Request for Legal Planning Meeting**. A copy of the Case Management Meeting and the Request for Legal Planning Meeting is sent to Legal Services, along with any other relevant documents from the child's file
- 4.3.2 The Legal Planning meeting is chaired by a Senior Manager or Head of Service
- 4.3.3 Legal Planning Panels ordinarily take the form of a face-to-face meeting on planned days, however there may be a need to seek an exceptional panel via teleconference due to presenting urgent concerns/risks. In these circumstances, the same process of a Senior Manager/Head of Service chairing and recording the outcome should still take place
- 4.3.4 Decisions available from Legal Planning Panels are:
- Commence Pre Proceedings – The Legal Planning Panel should consider an outline Pre Proceedings plan and arrange the date for Initial Pre proceedings meeting by contacting Legal Services via telephone during the Panel
  - Commence Care Proceedings – The Legal Planning Panel should ensure interim safety plans are in place whilst the matter is prepared for Court, and clear timescales for actions should be set and recorded
  - Request further information – The Legal Planning Panel may require further information in order to make a decision. In this instance, the child/ren should be presented back to the next available panel (or exceptional panel/meeting if agreed)
  - Continue with Child Protection Plan/Child in Need Plan – The Legal Planning Panel will record the rationale and decision making, and set any appropriate actions, recording these on the child's file

#### 4.4 Pre Proceedings meetings

- 4.4.1 Prior to the pre proceedings meeting, the social worker completes part one of the **pre proceedings plan** and sends this to Legal Services
- 4.4.2 The pre proceedings meeting is chaired by a manager and attended by the social worker, parents and legal representatives. At the pre proceedings meeting, the pre proceedings plan is finalised and signed by all. A copy should be provided to parents.
- 4.4.3 It is important to be clear on roles and expectations at the initial Pre Proceedings meeting, for progressing the pre proceedings plan

<b>Assessment required</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
DNA testing	Legal Services
Cognitive assessment	Children's Social Care to provide information to Legal Services. Legal Services to request

PAMS assessment	Children's Social Care
ISW assessment	Children's Social Care
Psychological assessment	Children's Social Care to provide information to Legal Services. Legal Services to request
Psychiatric assessment	Children's Social Care to provide information to Legal Services. Legal Services to request
Social work assessment	Children's Social Care
Assessment of alternative carers	Children's Social Care
Drug and/or alcohol testing	Children's Social Care
Disclosure of medical records	Legal Services
Disclosure of police information	Legal Services
Reports from partner agencies	Children's Social Care to provide information to Legal Services. Legal Services to request

- 4.4.4 A record of the meeting should be captured on the child's file. The initial Pre Proceedings meeting commences the twelve week Pre Proceedings process.
- 4.4.5 At week 6 of the Pre Proceedings process, a legal consultation is held between the social worker, manager and allocated solicitor/legal adviser. This is arranged by the allocated solicitor/legal adviser. The focus of the consultation should be to consider the progress of the pre proceedings plan. This consultation should be recorded on the child's file by the manager.
- 4.4.6 If escalation to care proceedings is considered appropriate at this time, senior management agreement must be obtained.
- 4.4.7 At week 10 of the Pre Proceedings process, the review pre proceedings meeting should be held and chaired by a manager. If continued pre proceedings or escalation to care proceedings is being considered, the case should be presented at the next available Senior Manager Panel to seek further guidance and authorisation
- 4.4.8 **The pre proceedings flowchart – CSC and legal** provides a visual step by step guide to follow for all children subject to pre proceedings
- 4.4.9 If a child is deemed to be at imminent risk at any stage throughout the Pre Proceedings process, urgent legal advice must be sought and consideration given to putting the matter before the Court

#### 4.5 Placement Planning meeting

- 4.5.1 The placement planning meeting should take place prior to any child being placed, however this is not always possible in an emergency situation. At the very latest, the

placement planning meeting should be convened by the social worker within 7 days of placement.

- 4.5.2 The child, carers, parents (where appropriate), health, education (if appropriate), supervising social worker (if foster placement) and any other professional involved in supporting the child should attend.
- 4.5.3 The Placement Plan should be completed from this meeting by the allocated social worker. If the child has been placed in an emergency with only basic information contained in the Placement Plan, the Placement Planning Meeting is the opportunity to update this and ensure full information is included.

#### 4.6 Children Looked After Review

- 4.6.1 The Children Looked After Review is the child's meeting and is chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (see IRO handbook).  
[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_app\\_role\\_iro.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_app_role_iro.html)

The child must be consulted and encouraged to participate with their review process age appropriately.

- 4.6.2 The child's placement plan and Care Plan must be available for the first Children Looked After Review.
- 4.6.3 At the second Children Looked After Review the care plan should clearly consider the plan for permanence to allow the Independent Reviewing Officer to ratify the child's care plan.
- 4.6.4 Where a child has been placed in a long term foster placement for over one year which has been ratified as permanent via the Permanence Panel, (excluding family/friends/connected persons), a decision can be made to reduce the frequency of reviews and visits. This decision must be led by the child's wishes and feelings and agreed via the Children Looked After Review process.  
[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p\\_look\\_aft\\_rev.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/p_look_aft_rev.html)

#### 4.7 Multi Agency Care Planning Meetings (Children Looked After - CLA)

- 4.7.1 Multi agency Care Planning Meeting (Children Looked After – CLA) should be held at a frequency of at least every 6 weeks. The only exception to this, is when the placement has been ratified as permanent and there is an approved management position, agreed via the CLA review process, that frequency can be reduced. The meeting should include, as a minimum, the child/young person (unless they choose not to attend), parents (if appropriate), social worker, carers, health, education (if applicable), and any services/professionals (as appropriate) working with the child and contributing to their care/permanence plan
- 4.7.2 Each multi agency Care Planning Meeting (Children Looked After – CLA) should consider, as a minimum:
  - The assessment of the child's current needs, and whether this requires updating
  - Child's lived experience, voice, and views of care/permanence plan
  - Permanence options

- Progress of the care/permanence plan
- The child's education and health needs
- Family time arrangements

4.7.3 The meeting should be chaired and recorded by the social worker and a copy of the meeting record provided to the child, family and professionals

#### 4.8 Final Evidence Case Management Meeting

4.8.1 A Final Evidence Case Management Meeting should take place in all cases where a child is subject to Care Proceedings and reaching Final Hearing

4.8.2 This meeting should be chaired and recorded by a manager and include the social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, and any other relevant professionals, including legal advice available by telephone (or attendance) if required

4.8.3 The Final Evidence Case Management Meeting will agree the final care plan for the child. A copy of the record of the meeting should be sent to the Senior Manager for oversight

#### 4.9 Permanence Panel

4.9.1 The purpose of permanence panel is to:

- Ratify children's long- term placements as permanent where appropriate;
- Track and monitor plans of and plans for permanence to ensure no drift or delay;
- Ensure the permanence tracker is up to date and relevant;
- Allow Head of Service oversight of our Looked After population by thematic selection of specific cases;

4.9.2 The permanence panel process is administrated and managed by Case Support within each locality/district.

4.9.3 For all cases selected to be presented to Permanence Panel and for those which social workers wish to present, the following paperwork must be provided to Case Support:

- Updated case summary;
- Copy of last multi agency CLA care planning meeting;
- Copy of last Permanence Panel minutes (if applicable)

4.9.4 The social worker and/or manager must attend panel.

4.9.5 The Permanence Panel is multi agency with representatives from Adoption/Fostering, Residential, Education, Health, Independent Reviewing Officer and Children's Social Care

4.9.6 A record of panel discussions and any decision/actions agreed will be clearly recorded on the child's file by Case Support

## **5.0 Promoting Permanence and Placement stability**

### 5.1 Stability and disruption meetings

- 5.1.1 Where any placement is at risk, a stability meeting must be convened at the earliest opportunity to prevent placement breakdown.
- 5.1.2 This is chaired by a manager and should include, the carer/placement staff, child (if appropriate), Independent Reviewing Officer, supervising social worker (if foster placement), health, education and any services/professionals working with the child
- 5.1.3 The stability meeting should develop a plan to support the continued placement unless it is determined that the placement has irretrievably broken down
- 5.1.4 Stability meetings adopt a proactive approach to prevent placement breakdown. Disruption meetings are responsive and are held following placement breakdown. One purpose of disruption meetings is to consider learning that can be applied to future placements. It is also important to collect information about any placement providers that can be shared with the Access To Resources team to improve the quality of placements available for our children.

## 5.2 Staying Put

- 5.2.1 Remaining with foster carers after the age of eighteen should be considered for all our children living in a foster care placement. Staying Put arrangements ensure that young people can remain with their former foster carers until they are prepared for adulthood, can experience a transition akin to their peers, avoid social exclusion and be more likely to avert a subsequent housing and tenancy breakdown
- 5.2.2 The Staying Put Policy found at chapter 6.8.2 <https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/contents.html> sets out detailed information on Staying Put arrangements, including the criteria, financial considerations and impact on transferring the foster placement to a staying put arrangement
- 5.2.3 The first Children Looked After review following the young person's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday should consider whether a Staying Put arrangement should be an option.
- 5.2.4 The young person's pathway plan should set out all of the practical arrangements regarding the young person remaining as a young adult in the Staying Put arrangement.
- 5.2.5 From the age of eighteen, young people are no longer legally 'in care' or Looked After and therefore fostering arrangements and legislation relating to children placed with foster carers no longer applies. The leaving care statutory framework applies instead.

## 5.3 Life Story work

- 5.3.1 Life story work is an important way of helping a child to integrate their past into the present, in order to help them to move into the future. Children who are in care, or who have been adopted may have little understanding of why they don't live with their birth parents. Some children have limited memories of their early childhood and events that took place in their early lives. Life Story Work is essential to help children in care begin to understand and accept their personal history and supported emotional permanence for children.

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/g\\_life\\_story\\_book.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/g_life_story_book.html)

5.4 Family time

- 5.4.1 The Local Authority has a duty to promote children in care spending time with their parents and families under Schedule 2 Children Act 1989, unless to do so, is not practicable or it is not in line with the child's best interests.
- 5.4.2 It is essential that all arrangements for children to spend time with their parents and/or family are dynamic and flexible in response to changing plans for a child's future.
- 5.4.3 Planning meetings and review meetings are the vehicle to ensure that appropriate plans are in place for children to enjoy safe family time, and that these are kept under regular review



## 6.0 Permanence practice tools and resources

- 6.1 Whilst there will be local variations that are appropriately applied to meet the demographics and needs of particular areas within Lancashire, it is important that key decision-making points within a child's journey to permanence are consistently applied.
- 6.2 To support this, a suite of key templates and documents have been devised and agreed to be used consistently across county. This streamlined suite of templates replaces a number of pre-existing templates.

### **FORMS AND TEMPLATES**

All forms, templates and attachments can be found on the Children's Services Online Procedures Manual, in the Local Resources Section.

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/local\\_resources.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/lancashirecsc/local_resources.html)

1. **Flowchart to support Permanence Process-**

#### **Senior Management Panel**

Case summary template

Case Management Meeting (this can be either a case note or generic meeting form on LCS)

#### **Legal Planning Panel**

2. **Request for Legal Planning Meeting**

Case Management Meeting (this can be either a case note or generic meeting form on LCS)

#### **Pre Proceedings meetings**

3. **Letter Before Proceedings**
4. **Schedule of Expectations/Pre Proceedings plan**
5. **Letter to De-escalate from Pre Proceedings**

#### **Multi agency CLA Care Planning Meetings**

Generic meeting form on LCS

#### **Final Evidence Case Management Meetings**

Case note or generic meeting form on LCS

#### **Permanence Panel**

6. **Permanence Panel Submission Form**

#### **Stability and Disruption Meetings**

Disruption Meetings Form on LCS

### **Special Guardianship Orders**

7. [SGO assessment template- TBC](#)
8. [SGO support plan template- TBC](#)

A number of key resources tools and guidance have been developed to assist practitioners and managers throughout the child's permanence process. This resource section will be regularly updated

## **RESOURCES**

### **Senior Management Panel**

9. [Lancashire County Council – Section 20 Agreement for Parents](#)

### **Legal Planning Panel**

No current resources at this time

### **Pre Proceedings Meetings**

10. [Pre proceedings flowchart – CSC and legal](#)

### **Multi agency Care Planning Meetings (Children Looked After – CLA)**

No current resources at this time

### **Final Evidence Case Management meetings**

11. [Comparison of legal outcomes and family placement type](#)
12. [Advantages and disadvantages of different legal outcomes](#)
13. [Balanced Sheet Guidance](#)

### **Permanence Panel**

14. [Permanence Panel Terms of Reference](#)

### **Stability and Disruption meetings**

No current resources at this time

### **Special Guardianship Orders**

15. [The Difference between a Connected Foster Carer and Special Guardian](#)
16. [Research in Practice – Assessing Friends and Family Practical Guide](#)
17. [Special Guardianship Orders Financial Flowchart](#)
18. [Special Guardianship Orders – a Guide to Good Practice \(PowerPoint\)](#)

### **Placement with Friends and Family**

No current resources at this time

## **Adoption**

19. Early Permanence Adoption Timeline
20. CPR Guidance Tool
21. Creating a CPR LCS Guidance
22. Pro Forma ADM SHOPA
23. ADM Submission Checklist
24. Questions for Parents for CPR Guidance
25. Questions for Carers for CPR Guidance
26. CPR Quality Assurance Checklist
27. CPR Learning and Development- Child Permanence Report- PowerPoint

## **Private Fostering**

No current resources at this time

## **Miscellaneous**

28. Exploring Relationships Roles and Differential Treatment
29. Identifying Difficult Patterns of Behaviour and Aggression
30. Initial Overview of Each Child
31. Observations by Health Staff
32. Observations of Family Time between Separated Siblings
33. Observations of Family Time with Parents and Between Brothers and Sisters
34. Observations of Sibling Relationships – Positive and Negative Aspects
35. Parents and Relatives Views about the Children and their Sibling Relationship
36. Sibling Assessment – Key Elements
37. Children's Physical Aggression
38. Observations by Education Staff – Pre School
39. Observations by Education Staff – School