Wirral Multi – Agency Permanency Panel – Terms of Reference

Purpose: The aim of the Permanency Panel is to ensure that Looked After Children, have appropriate permanency plans that are implemented in a timely manner to avoid drift and delay, in line with the Permanency Policy and Care Planning Procedure (June 2015). This panel will also approve any support plans, including financial commitments for children with plans for permanence via Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders. As such the panel will have five functions:

* To scrutinise and approve proposed SGO placements, including requests to assist in the funding of SGO/CAO applications, and SGO support plans.
* To approve matches for long term fostering arrangements.
* To track plans for children with a primary or contingency plan for adoption.
* To review all placements of children who have been looked after for over 12 months that have not been approved as long term. To ensure children and young people have the right placement to meet their needs and that the permanency plan for the child is being implemented.
* To review all placements where children are placed at home with parents on a care order and where the arrangement has been in place for longer than 12 months

Membership:

* Senior Manager Children in Care – Chair
* Administrator
* Permanence Co-ordinator – Vice Chair
* Team Manager CLA
* Team Manager, CIN/CP
* Specialist Nurse CLA or Health REP
* Virtual School Head
* Independent Reviewing Officer Rep
* Team Manager, Fostering Service
* Team Manager, Adoption Service
* Team Manager – Commissioning, as required
* Accountant, Finance Team

Membership will vary according to the needs of Panel, for example, the Team Manager CIN/CP and Virtual Head will not be required for part 1 below. Team Manager, Adoption will not be required for part 2/3 below.

If anyone is unable to attend they should send a representative.

Expert advisors will be invited to Panel as required, for example, legal advisors.

Frequency of meetings:

Every 2 weeks

Panel Structure: The Panel will meet for three hours, once a fortnight. The meeting will be divided as follows:

Part 1) Adoption tracking. This section of the meeting will ensure that all blocks and barriers to achieving a successful adoption placement within timescales are addressed. All children on the adoption tracker or who are subject to a Placement Order will be considered. (45 minutes).

Part 2) Matching and approval / recommendation of placements as requested by Social Workers. The Panel will consider requests from Social Workers proactively progressing plans for permanency, as agreed in the child’s review, this will include long term fostering, SGO / CAO. Children in care proceedings with a care plan of Placement with parents. The Panel will approve Long-term matches for in house foster placements, and friends and family SGO’s. Any plans involving IFA, residential placements, SGO to existing carers, will also be considered for a view prior to referral to the relevant resources panel for funding approval by the Assistant Director.

Capacity: 5 x 15 minute slots.

Part 3) Scrutiny of plans and placements identified by panel as in danger of drift and delay. Cases will be identified from performance reports.

* Children not in permanent placements
* Children placed with parents over 12 months

Social Workers will be invited to panel to discuss cases and outline plans, addressing any blocks or barriers to implementation. Actions will be agreed with specific timescales. The cases will be tracked by Panel as required. Capacity: 3 x 15 minute slots.

Lisa Jamieson

15th August 2017