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| 1 | I have understood that a plan for a child to return home from care is a **plan for permanence** for the child and the same elements of good practice apply. |
| 2 | I have put **support in place** when a child comes in and out of care quickly in an emergency to ensure they can live safely and happily at home. |
| 3 | I have obtained **agreement from my Team Manager / Head of Service** to the plan for the child to return home from care. Head of Service to add LCS case note confirming agreement. |
| 4 | I have **alerted the Independent Reviewing Officer** (IRO) that consideration is being given to returning a child home from care so that a LAC review can be convened. The **IRO is responsible** for completing and signing off the [**"Checklist for children looked after returning home"**](http://wandsworthchildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html) to make sure everything is done to support a safe return home. |
| 5 | In **exceptional circumstances**, such as a parent suddenly withdrawing s20 consent to their child being looked after, when there isn’t time to convene a LAC Review, I have worked in consultation with my Team Manager and the IRO using the “**Checklist for children looked after returning home**”. The **Team Manager** is responsible for completing and signing off the checklist to make sure everything is done to support a safe return home. |
| 6 | I have carried out a **risk assessment** using the checklist guidance and the [**NSPCC**](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/returning-home-from-care-best-children.pdf) recommended **framework for classifying the risk of reunification** in the “Checklist for children looked after returning home”. |
| 7 | I have updated the **chronology** to inform decision making. |
| 8 | I have **updated the assessment** that takes into account and analyses the chronology, the child’s journey, reasons the child came into care, evidence of change in parenting capacity, involvement of fathers and/or parent’s partner, information from partner agencies, stresses in the family. |
| 9 | I have used the updated assessment as a basis for **planning.** |
| 10 | I have used the [**Signs of Safety**](http://www.signsofsafety.net/signs-of-safety/) model to form the **plan** which includes child, family and partner agency participation and ownership, SMART actions towards achieving a **good outcome for the child**, transition planning detailing how the family network will support the child’s return, how the professional network will withdraw, **robust contingency planning**. |
| 11 | I have kept the case open when the child has returned home with a **clear plan of phased withdrawal**. |
| 12 | I have continued **direct work** with the child after they have returned home including helping the child to understand any concerns (e.g parental mental health, domestic violence), identify warning signs, have strategies of what to do if they see these signs (safety plans). |  |
| 13 | I have completed **life story work** if the child has been in care for over a year and given them a **later life letter.** |  |
| 14 | I have **informed all relevant agencies** that the child is returning home and shared the plan with them. |
| 15 | I have informed CLA B**usiness Support** that the child is returning home. |
| 16 | I have **uploaded all significant documents** to the child’s record, including **court and legal documents**. |
| 17 | I have informed the child and their parents of their rights as **eligible / relevant and former relevant children** and their right to **access their records**. |
| 18 | I have given the child their **health passport and savings** for the duration they were in care. |