**In the Family Court sitting at Brighton**

**In the matter of the Children Act 1989**

**And in the matter of**

**Local Authority   
Final Social Work Statement**

**WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

This document follows the template recommended by the President of the Family Division, in compliance with the Public Law Outline 2014.

**The child(ren)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of Birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current  legal status** |
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| **Local Authority and Social Worker details** | |
| Filed by | West Sussex Children’s Social Care |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd |  |
| Social work statement number for this witness e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd |  |
| This witness’s name, qualifications, experience, and office address |  |
| This witness’s HCPC registration number |  |
| Dated |  |

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| **1. Case details** |
| **1.1 Family Composition**  This section should include family members and relationships, especially the primary carers and significant adults/other children and should specify the relationship in respect of each child subject to the application. Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth, their nationality, ethnicity and their current addresses. |

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| **Name** | **Relationship** | **Parental Responsibility** | **DOB** | **Nationality** | **Ethnicity** | **Address** |
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**1.2 Genogram**

**1.3 Ecomap (risky and protective contacts)**

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| **1.4 Summary of reason/s for order sought** |
| 1.4.1 |

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| 2. **The social work chronology (key elements)**  The Court is referred to the full LA chronology filed. This provides a fuller account of the history in this case. For the purposes of this statement I provide below key incidents which are crucial to the understanding of the reasons for proceedings and experiences of the family. |
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| Date | Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child’s welfare | Significance |
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| **3. Analysis of harm** |
| **3.1 The social work analysis of the harm the child (or each child) has suffered and/or the/any risk of harm the child continues to face, including the analysis of the event/s that led to the application i.e. the threshold as described in the application form** |
| 3.1.1 I have considered the harm which XXXXXX is at risk of suffering as a result of the parenting she is receiving, pursuant to my obligation to consider the Welfare Checklist at S 1 (3) (e) of the Children Act 1989. |

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| **3.2 List of assessments and interventions**  **Prior to proceedings being issued and subsequently the family have been the subject of a number of assessments, and interventions which I summarise below. Any reports arising from the assessments are available to the parties as part of the disclosure within the proceedings.** | | | |
| **Organisation** | **Description of assessment/intervention** | **Date** | **Outcome and effectiveness** |
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| **4. Child impact analysis** |
| **4.**1 **Description of the child’s daily life and experience at the time harm was identified** |
| In considering (the child’s) experiences I am mindful of my duty to consider their age, sex, background and any relevant characteristics per S1( 3)(d) of the Children Act Welfare Checklist |
| **4.2 Any continuing risk of significant harm including impairment of development to the child balanced against any factors which mitigate that risk and support for the care of the child** |
|  |
| **4.3 Analysis of the child’s needs, against the welfare checklist** |
| I have considered the child’s physical, emotional and educational needs per the requirements of the Welfare Checklist at Section 1 (3)(b) of the Children Act 1989    **The wishes and feelings of the child concerned**  **The child’s physical, emotional and educational needs**  **The likely effect on the child if circumstances changed as a result of the court’s decision**  **The child’s age, sex, backgrounds and any other characteristics which will be relevant to the court’s decision**  **Any harm the child has suffered or may be at risk of suffering**  **Capability of the child’s parents at meeting the child’s needs**  **The range of powers available to the court** |
| **4.4 The child’s wishes and feelings and how these have been identified** |
| I have considered the child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings per the requirements of the Welfare Checklist at Section 1 (3)(a) of the Children Act 1989. |
| **4.5 The child’s own statement (where applicable)** |
| 4.5.1 |
| **4.6 Proposal/s for further assessment and consideration of the child’s timetable ,** |
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| **5. Analysis of Parenting Capability** |
| **5.1** **Analysis of each parent’s capability to meet each child’s needs, including analysis of any capability gap and whether/how this can be bridged in the timetable for the child.**  In accordance with S 1 (3 )(f) of the Children Act 1989 over the course of the proceedings I have considered how capable each of XXXXXXXXXXs parents, XXXXXXXXX and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, are of meeting her needs |
| **Mother** |
| **Father** |
| **Other person with parental responsibility** |

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| **6. Analysis of wider family and friends capability** |
| **6.1** **Analysis of wider family and friends’ capability to meet each child’s needs, including analysis of any capability gap, and whether/how this can be bridged in the timetable for the child.** |
| In accordance with S 1 (3 )(f) of the Children Act 1989 over the course of the proceedings I have considered how capable each of wider family and other connected persons are of meeting the child’s needs. |

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| **7. The proposed S31A plan – the early permanence and contact plan** |

**7.1 Consideration, comparison and and evaluation of realistic placement options**

In reaching a recommendation as to the permanent living arrangements for XXXXX the local authority is obliged to consider a range of realistic options before reaching a conclusion as to which option is in the best interests of the child’s welfare in the long term.

In formulating the proposals for placement I have considered the full range of the powers available to the court per section 1 (3) (g) of the Welfare Checklist of the Children Act 1989. In doing so I have considered the prognosis of each option meeting the needs of the child(ren), with reference to the potential positive or negative implications for the child. These include the likely effect on the child(ren)of any change in circumstances in accordance with the Welfare Checklist at S1 (3) c) of the Children Act 1989. I have also considered the Adoption Welfare Checklist

Whilst my statement sets out a number of positive and negative factors, it is not the case that each factor has the same weight as all of the others. The ultimate balancing of the positive factors against the negative factors is a qualitative one, not a quantative one.

In reaching my conclusion as the best placement option for XXXXXX I have had in mind that their welfare must be the paramount consideration

**Placement Options**

**Placement of XXXXXXX with mother/father/parents (as applicable, if the parents are not together a separate analysis for each parent will be required)**

**Strengths**

**Weaknesses**

**Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements (specific details)**

**Proposed Contact**

**Consideration of Potential Orders**

**Analysis**

**Placement of XXXXX with family or friends (will need to be undertaken for each set of carers)**

**Strengths**

**Weaknesses**

**Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements (specific details)**

**Proposed Contact**

**Consideration of Potential Orders**

**Analysis**

**Placement of XXXX in long term foster care**

**Strengths**

**Weaknesses**

**Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements (specific details)**

**Proposed Contact**

**Consideration of Potential Orders**

**Analysis**

**Placement of XXXX for adoption**

**Strengths**

**Weaknesses**

**Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements (specific details)**

**Proposed Contact**

**Consideration of Potential Orders**

**Analysis**

**Conclusion of this section of the statement**

**7.2 The local authority has undertaken an analysis of the adoption welfare checklist for XXXX**

**Adoption Welfare Checklist**

1. **The child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings regarding the decision (considered in the light of the child’s age and understanding)**
2. **The child’s particular needs**
3. **The likely effect on the child (throughout her life) of having ceased to be a member of the original family and become an adopted person**
4. **The child’s age, sex, background and any of the child’s characteristics which the Court or agency considers relevant**
5. **Any harm (1989 Act definition) which the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering**
6. **The relationship which the child has with relatives and with any other person in relation to whom the Court or agency considers the relationship to be relevant, including:**
7. **the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value to the child if in doing so**
8. **the ability and willingness of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, to provide the child with a secure environment, in which the child can develop, and otherwise meet the child’s needs;**
9. **the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives or of any such person, regarding the child. (*specifically in relation to adoption*)**
10. **The ability and willingness of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person to provide the child with a secure environment in which the child can develop, and otherwise to meet the child’s needs;**
11. **The wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child.**

**Religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background**

**Consideration of the range of powers**

**Dispensation of Consent**

The local authority respectfully request that the Court dispenses with parental consent for the placement of XXXXXXXXXXXX. As is set out above the local authority believe that the welfare of XXXXXXX requires that the consents of XXXXXXXXXXX are dispensed with to enable XXXXXX to be placed for adoption without delay.

**Contact Plans Post Adoption**

**7.3 The Contact Plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child** | **Who contact is with and their relationship to the child** | **Brief rationale for the level of contact proposed** | **Level of support/ supervision** | **Frequency and duration** |
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| **8. Analysis of views and issues raised by other parties** |
| **8.1 Mother’s views** |
| 8.1.1 |
| **8.2 Father’s views** |
| 8.2.1 |
| **8.3 Views of wider family members and connected persons** |
| 8.3.1 |
| **8.4 Views of other parties or significant others e.g. Cafcass, the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)**   |  | | --- | | 8.4.1 | |
| **9. Update and proposals for further evidence and assessment** |
| **9.1 Proposals for further evidence/assessment** |
| 9.1.1 |
|  |
| **10. Statement of procedural fairness** |
| **10.1 Communication of the contents of this statement to mother, father, significant others, and the child** |
|  |
| **10.2 How the Local Authority has been clear in its communications, transparency and disclosure/s of its concerns to mother, father, wider family members and significant others** |
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| **11. Signature** |  | |
|  |  | |
| Print full name |  | |
|  |  | |
| Role/position held | Social Worker | |
|  |  | |
|  | **The facts in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.** | |
| Signed |  | |
|  |  | |
| Date |  |  |