**NEWHAM WORKFLOW**

**PERMANENCE PLANNING FOR OLDER CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN CHLDREN’S HOME or SEMI-INDEPENDENT PROVISION**

Date of publication: 30th September 2020

Date of review: 30th September 2021

1. This document should be read in conjunction with Newham Children’s Service online procedures **Care and Supervision Proceedings and the Public Law Outline** and **Permanence Planning Guidance.**

2. This Timeline will only apply to a small number of older children who become looked after but are unlikely to enter the Court arena and have clear care plans, for example:

(i) young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers and who will remain living in semi-independent accommodation to age 18, or

(ii) young people who become looked after aged 16/17 and proceedings will not be issued due to their age.

3. Most children who become looked after and all sibling groups (irrespective of the age range of the children) will follow the process set out in **Timeline & Workflow – Permanence Planning for Children Looked After** (see Documents Library).The decision as to which Timeline will be followed will be agreed at Permanency Tracking Panel. Only a small cohort of children with complex need will potentially have a permanence plan to remain in a children’s home or residential. For many children or young people may spend an agreed time within a children’s home setting but the position from LBN is that we will always explore stepping down or moving onto independence where appropriate.

4. This timeline starts from the point a young person becomes looked after (CLA). If the young person was open to Children’s Services before they became looked after, care planning should already have started ie through a child protection (CP) or child in need (CIN) plan, and through pre-proceedings Public Law Outline (PLO). This may have included identifying potential alternative carers (which should be considered at the earliest opportunity) and convening a Family Group Conference.

5. The young person’s Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) must be involved in the permanence planning process and will continue to monitor and scrutinise the young person’s care plan through the Looked After Children Review process.

6. Practitioners and managers should refer to the **Terms of Reference** for Permanency Planning Meetings and Permanency Tracking Panel to clarify the purpose and functions of the meeting, and the administrative arrangements (Documents Library).

**Children’s Home / Residential:**

 **Permanency Planning Meeting (PPM)**

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| * Permanency Planning Meeting (PPM)
* At this meeting it is agreed that the sole plan for the child is child to remain living in a Children Home. This is likely to be jointly registered school and one that allows for children to remain until 19 years of age. The PPM will need to satisfy the necessary financial authorisation or will be sought before the matter is referral to the CLA review for endorsement.
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**Looked After Review**

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| * Children Look After Review
* IRO is asked to endorse the sole plan for permanency with the information about how the specified provision will meet the young person needs to the age of 18. Subject to the IRO endorsement the IRO will make a recommendation for the plan and the provision to be considered by the Permanency Tracking meeting. This can be achieved by the social worker requesting a slot via the Permanency Manager.
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**Permanency Tracking Panel**

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| * Permanency Tracking Panel
* Subject to the Practice Lead accepting the recommendation from the Review the panel will consider the case for agreement that the plan for permanency will be residential care (Children’s Home) and the current provision be regarded as permanent (It will only be permanent for a small cohort of complex children). The case will need to set how the provision will meet the requirements for transition to adult services if required, consistency with the EHCP if in place and how the need for preparation for adulthood will be achieved.
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**Panel Agreement**

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| * Chair’s (HOS- Children in Care) agreement.
* Decision to be confirmed via letter to young person, their parents and the team around the young person / professional network.
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**Record on Case File**

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| * Next Children Looked After Review records permanency has been achieved on the date of the Permanency Tracker meeting. However as stated above the plan to remain in a residential setting will only apply to a small cohort of young people as LBN will always look to move young people on from his setting where appropriate and that may involve moving on to achieving more independence.
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**Semi-Independent Provision:**

**Permanency Planning Meeting (PPM)**

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| * Permanency Planning Meeting (PPM)
* In a small number of instances a young person over the age of 16 may be placed into this type of provision at the time the care episode started. In such instances the Permanency Planning meeting will consider if the plan to should be semi-independent provision and if so the criteria for the provision be considered permanent.
* In all other instances semi-independent provision will be considered as one of 2 or possible options. The PPM will discuss progress with each of the possible plans and when confirmed it is sole plan, the criteria for the provision to be considered permanent will be agreed. The PPM should be satisfied that such provision has been located and tested before proposing the plan to be considered at the next review.
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**Looked After Review**

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| * Child Looked After Review
* The IRO is requested to endorse the sole plan for semi-independent provision as the permanency plan. Should the provision be identified the case for agreement to be outlined at the review. Subject to the IRO endorsement, the IRO will make a recommendation for the plan and the provision to be considered by the Permanency Tracking Panel. This can be achieved by the CSW requesting a slot via the Permanency Manager.
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**Permanency Tracking Panel**

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| * Permanency Tracking Panel
* Subject to the Practice Lead accepting the recommendation the panel will consider the case for agreement that the plan for permanency will be Semi Independent and the current provision be regarded as permanent. The case will need to include how the provision will meet the requirements for transition to adult services if it is required, consistency with EHCP if one is in place and how need for preparation for adulthood will be achieved.
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**Panel Agreement**

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| * Chair’s (HOS- Children in Care) agreement.
* Decision to be confirmed via letter to young person, their parents and the team around the young person / professional network.
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**Record on Case File**

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| * Next Children Looked After Review records permanency has been achieved on the date of the Permanency Tracker.
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