

CYP008 BAAF - Child Permanence Report



Photo of child

Name of child	Ryan Green
Date of birth	24/10/2019

Please confirm current photo of the child is uploaded into this episode

Yes No

Date photograph taken	10/01/20
Agency ref no.	123456

Adoption Agency Details

Agency details

Name of agency

West Sussex County Council

Address

County Hall North (Parkside) Chartway Horsham RH12 1XH

Telephone number

0330 222 7777

Social worker details

Name	Fran Smith
Address	
Telephone number	
E-mail Address	Fran.smith@westsussex.gov.uk

Is the social worker is qualified under the Restriction on the Preparation of Reports Regulations 2005 to prepare this report?

Yes No

Signature	F Smith
-----------	---------

Social worker if not qualified

Name	
Signature	

Practice manager details

Name	John Jones
Address	
Telephone number	

E-mail Address

John.jones@westsussex.gov.uk

Signature

Social worker responsible for family finding (if different from above)

Name

Address

Telephone number

E-mail Address

Dates

Date report completed

07/02/20

Date report updated

Date of agency
decision that child
should be placed for
adoptionDate of care order/
placement order or
any other orders
made**Essential information about the child**

Surname

Green

First names

Ryan

Other names child is
known by (including
familiar names)

Date of birth

24/10/19

Place of birth

Worthing

Nationality

British

Sex Male Female

Current address

FOSTER CARE - confidential address

Local authority area of
this address

West Sussex

The carerName of person(s) at
this address who is
the main carer of the
child

Sally B

Relationship/status of
this person(s) to the
child

Foster carer

Telephone number of carer

CONFIDENTIAL

E-mail address of carer

CONFIDENTIAL

Family composition

This section should include birth parents, other family members, significant adults and other children and should specify the relationship to the child. Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth and their current addresses. For siblings note whether full or half-sibling, maternal or paternal and if living with the child.

Family composition

Name	Relationship	Parental responsibility	Date of birth	Nationality	Ethnicity	Address
Rachel Green	Mother	Yes	13/08/1989	British	White	Flat 2 30 Main Road WORTHING West Sussex BN11
Chris Williams	Father	Yes	20/03/1978	British	White	Flat 2 30 Main Road WORTHING West Sussex BN11
Terry Green	Half-sibling	No	20/09/2016	British	White	CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS XXX XXX
Louise Green	Half-sibling	No	01/04/2018	British	White	CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS XXX XXX

Legal status of child

Court order

A court order is in force

Name of court	Brighton Family Court	
Date on which order was made	26/10/2019	
Type of order	Interim Care Order	
Please state if other		

Court orders applied for but not yet granted

- An order has been applied for but not yet granted

Give details of which order has been applied for, and which court the application was made at. Also give the date that the application was made at.

Order		
Court		
Date of application		
Give date of final hearing if known		

If the child is subject to proceedings, who are the parties to the proceedings?

The Local Authority will be making an application for a Care and Placement Order by 28/2/2020 at Worthing Family Court. The IRH is 15/3/2020

Mother and Father
West Sussex County
Council Ryan (via his
Guardian)

Is the child is provided with accommodation under section 20 or 59(1) of the Children Act 1989?

- Yes No

Formal or advanced consent to the placement

Give details and date of any formal or advanced consent to the placement of the child for adoption and the making of the adoption order (and whether yet witnessed by a CAFCASS officer). If subsequently withdrawn, give date withdrawn.

N/A

Section 20 (4) (a) of the 2002 Act

Give details and the date where the parent or guardian has made a statement under section 20(4) (a) of the 2002 Act that they do not wish to be informed of any application for an adoption order. If such statements were subsequently withdrawn, give the dates of these withdrawals.

N/A

Section 30 of the fatal accidents act 1976 and other rights or interests in property

Has the child any rights/claims under section 30 of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 or any other rights to or interest in property which they may lose or gain if an adoption order is made?

- Yes No

If yes, please give details

--

CAFCASS Guardian's provisional view

Include name of Guardian, the date their view was given and whether written or verbal

Ryan's Guardian is Sam Right. She confirmed via email on 24/01/20 that she is in full support of the adoption plan for Ryan.

VIEWES OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

Ryan's IRO is Heather Edwards and she has confirmed by email on 26/01/20 that she is in agreement with the proposed care plan of adoption for Ryan.

Chronology of the child's care since birth

Chronology - 1

From	24/10/19
To	26/10/19
Age of child (years and months)	0
Placement details – name of parent/carer and observations on the care provided	Worthing hospital. Ryan was cared for by his mother Rachel, with support and supervision from midwives and agency support staff.
Reason for move	Ryan was moved to foster carers on 26/10/19 from hospital, following an Interim Care Order being granted by the court.

Chronology - 2

From	26/10/19
To	
Age of child (years and months)	0
Placement details – name of parent/carer and observations on the care provided	Sarah and Matt - Foster carers. Ryan has been placed with Sarah and Matt since he was six days old. He receives a very good level of care, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy tummy time and start exploring toys as well as receiving cuddles and nurture.
Reason for move	Ryan can stay in this placement until he moves to his adoptive family in due course.

Descriptive and evaluative report on child

In compiling this report, where evidence has been drawn from the reports of other professionals, give details below

Report details

Name of report	Author of report	Position	Date of report

Description of the child

Physical description

Details

Ryan is a very young baby with fair skin and a good head of dark hair. See attached photos.

Child's personality

Details

Ryan is still very young, so is just starting to develop his personality. Sarah describes him as a lovely baby to look after. He is smiley and beginning to be aware of his surroundings

Interests, likes and dislikes

Details

Ryan enjoys his bath time and bottle and likes to look at a range of toys on his play mat.

Self-care skills

Details

As a newborn baby, Ryan needs his caregivers to undertake all of his care. He does not enjoy having his hair washed which makes him cry. He often wriggles when having his nappy changed.

Emotional behavioural and social development

Details

Ryan is still very young. However, he has had consistency of care since six days old and is noted to be developing a healthy relationship to his key caregiver Sarah. His attachment development will, however, have been impacted by the separation from his mother at three days old, and the continued disruption to his routine by twice weekly contact sessions with his parents which means that he experiences separation from Sarah.

Identity

Details

Ryan is white British and will be English-speaking. Ryan smiles when he hears Sarah's voice but can be unsettled following video contact with Rachel and Chris whose voices are less familiar.

Religion

Details

Rachel and Chris do not identify any religion for Ryan. However Ryan has attended church with Sarah and Matt.

Language

Details

Rachel and Chris are English speaking as are Sarah and Matt. Ryan will have English as his first language.

The child's health

Details

Ryan is a healthy baby who is developing well so far. He feeds well and his growth is consistent. He suffers from reflux from time-to-time and has baby Gaviscon to help with this. He was born healthy and there were no concerns about Rachel's health during pregnancy.

Summary report from the agency medical adviser

(insert or attach)

Please see attached adoption medical summary.

The child's education

This section should include all school placements, including playgroup and nursery provision - 0

From

To

Name of provider

Address of provider

Type of educational provision

Reason for move

Summary of child's educational progress and needs Ryan is a young baby so is not currently accessing any formal education at this stage.

Does the child have a Statement of Special Educational Needs under the Education AC 1996 or an EHCP?

Yes No

If yes, include a summary of the main features and requirements. Attach any relevant copies of the following: the Statement, Annual Review Report, latest school and educational psychologist's report and other relevant reports or plans.

If no, is the child receiving additional support, e.g. School Action, School Action Plus or Behavioural Support?

Summary of family and child's history

Summary account of relevant family history Suffolk County Council contacted West Sussex Children's Services in March 2018 with worries that Rachel was pregnant and had two previous children removed from her care and adopted. Chris Green, the father of the unborn baby, had also had one child that had been adopted. The referral raised concerns about Rachel having additional learning needs and suffering from depression and anxiety.
A Child and Family Assessment was completed with Rachel and Chris, which concluded that there were significant concerns about how they would meet the needs of a newborn baby together due to their learning

needs, unhygienic home conditions, untreated depression and anxiety in both parents.

Care proceedings were subsequently issued regarding Louise when she was born, and Rachel moved into a parent-and-child foster placement with newborn Louise when she was born in September 2018.

Rachel became pregnant with Ryan during the care proceedings for Louise, at a stage where she and Chris had been informed that the Local Authority would not be supporting Louise to be rehabilitate to their care. The care proceedings for Louise concluded in September 2019 with a care and placement order being granted, and Rachel moved out of placement the same day. Ryan was born two months later.

A number of assessments were undertaken during Louise's proceedings which concluded that Rachel and Chris were not able to parent safely, with the primary issue being their cognitive abilities and significant parenting deficits which could not be taught to them and consolidated within the child's timeframe.

There had been no changes to the family's circumstances in the brief time since Louise's proceedings concluded and the birth of Ryan, and given that the prognosis of them being able to parent Ryan was so poor, care proceedings were issued at birth with a plan for Ryan to be placed in foster care on his own.

Summary account of child's history from their birth to present time (including prenatal experience) and how this led to them becoming looked after

Ryan was a wanted baby and Rachel and Chris were pleased to find out that they were expecting another baby. They chose his name before he was born, as they found out that they were having a boy and chose the name Ryan after their friend and as a name that they liked. Rachel and Chris went to all their antenatal appointments, and Chris was present to support Rachel when Ryan was born.

Ryan spent his first six days being cared for by Rachel in hospital, with support from midwives and agency staff to supervise her. He was placed with his current foster family at six days old and is a settled and content baby, apart from suffering with some reflux which can be uncomfortable for him. He has contact twice per week with his parents which he doesn't appear to struggle with.

Ryan has experienced separation from his mother Rachel at six days old, and repeated separations from his primary caregivers (his foster carers) to attend contact twice per week. His development of a secure attachment will have been impacted by this, however he has benefitted from a stable foster home and nurturing care within this, which we hope will have given him a positive foundation to be able to build healthy new attachment relationships in his adoptive family in due course.

Social worker's analysis

Social worker's analysis of the child's needs and the implications for their future placement

Ryan is a very young baby who was born to two parents with learning disabilities/difficulties, shortly after care proceedings concluded for their older daughter Louise. Rachel had spent a year living with Louise in a parent-and-child foster placement, and despite significant teaching and support, was not able to meet her basic needs for safety and stimulation, or provide attuned and emotionally warm parenting. There were no changes to the parents' circumstances or parenting abilities in the brief time before Ryan was born, and the court endorsed a care plan for Ryan to be placed separately from his parents when he was three days old.

Ryan's needs are in a similar range to those of any newborn baby, in terms of needing his caregivers to meet all of his needs and provide nurturing, stimulating and safe care. He will need adoptive parent/s who have the time to dedicate to such a young baby, and who have an appreciation for the losses and separations that Ryan has already faced in terms of being removed from his parent's care, and the lasting impact this will have had on him developing positive attachment relationships.

Ryan's parents both have learning difficulties/disabilities, which may have relevance for Ryan as he grows up. He is too young at present for us to know if he has a learning difficulty, so will need adopter/s who are committed to parenting him in the event that he does have some additional needs in the future. His development will be optimised by having plenty of opportunity to play and explore, and a range of stimulating activities and toys at home and via community groups and outings.

Ryan has one older half-sibling, Terry and a full sibling, Louise, both of whom are adopted or, in Louise's case, have a care plan of adoption. He will need adopter/s who can share his lifestory with him as he grows up and who are committed to helping him to keep in touch with his siblings as he grows up. It will be beneficial for Ryan to have updates about his birth parents and as such his adopter/s will need to engage in the proposed letterbox contact with Rachel and Chris.

Child's wishes and feelings

Give date when views were last ascertained

What were the child's views and how did you obtain them?

Ryan is only eight weeks old at the time of writing this report, so is unable to provide his views verbally. Observations of Ryan with his foster carer show that he is settling well with her and developing positive attachments.

Social worker's analysis of the wishes and feelings of the child

Ryan would want to be cared for in a safe and nurturing environment where he is given plenty of love and cuddles, and lots of opportunities to play and explore as he grows up will aid his development. Ideally Ryan could be cared for by his parents or within the wider family network, but if this is not able to be achieved, it would be important for him to grow up in a permanent family who will enable him to know of his birth family and keep in touch with them.

Any further relevant
information**The child's birth mother**

Surname

Green

First names

Rachel Marie

Names at child's birth The above names were used at the time of
the child's birth

If no, what were they

Other names
(including familiar
names)

Date of Birth

23/06/89

Place of birth

Worthing

Nationality

British

Immigration status

UK Citizen

Racial origin, cultural
and linguistic
background

White English and English-speaking.

Current address

Flat 2
30 Church Walk
WORTHING
West Sussex BN11 2LTGive date when last
confirmed

10/01/20

Local authority area

West Sussex

An electronically stored photograph can be added to this episode using the [Upload](#) button on the [Documents](#) screen in this episode (if appropriate)**Please confirm current photo of the birth mother is uploaded into this episode** Yes NoWhere no photograph
has been uploaded,
please give reasons
why

Date of photograph

23/01/2020

Give a brief
description of the
birth mother
Briefly describe the
personality and
interests of the birth
mother

Rachel is around 5 foot 4 inches tall. She is of medium build. Rachel has long dark brown hair with a fringe, and generally wears her hair in a ponytail. Rachel has blue eyes. Rachel tends to dress quite casually in jeans and sweatshirts.

Rachel can be shy and sometimes will ignore you when she first meets new people. However, she can be smiley and chatty when she feels more relaxed.

Brief details of the birth mother's education history

Rachel loves animals, particularly dogs. Her and Chris have two dogs - Shelley and Hunter- who are very important to them.

Rachel enjoys TV shows like X Factor and Eastenders. She particularly likes Disney with her favourite being Minnie and Mickey Mouse. She has clothes and pyjamas with these characters on.

Rachel enjoys going to cafes and enjoys eating out.

She is a fan of 80s music and songs from musicals. She knows the words to lots of songs.

Rachel enjoys attending social clubs for adults with Learning Difficulties and helps out at one of them with Chris. They also attend a "beatbox" club together. Rachel has friends that she meets up with at her clubs.

Rachel attended St Ann's Primary School, Grove School and Walden Secondary School. She received extra support in class because she struggled with her reading.

Rachel left school at 16 and then completed a 3 year Life Skills course at college.

Current occupation or profession

Rachel has never had a job but, whilst at college, she undertook work placements in horticulture and catering.

Brief details of her employment history

Rachel is not employed and describes herself as a full-time parent.

Brief description of the home and neighbourhood where she lives

Rachel and Chris live together in a residential area of East Worthing. Their flat is managed and provides support to vulnerable people.

Brief summary of any relevant health factors

Rachel describes her health as generally good. She is allergic to nuts and to aspirin. Rachel has been diagnosed with ADHD by Dr Jann during a Psychiatric Assessment. Rachel's IQ was assessed as being in the range of 62-70 by Dr Mary Lope in January 2020, when an updating Capacity Assessment (attached). This means that she has a borderline learning disability. It was considered that she does have capacity to conduct in these care proceedings for Ryan, as long as measures were put in place by professionals such as using short sentences and having regular breaks. Rachel reports that her parents and siblings all have learning difficulties.

Brief history of birth mother

Summary and brief social history of the birth mother

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth mother
	As a very young child Rachel experienced a significant amount of neglect whilst in the care of her parents and, at this time, she was living in the Haywards Heath area of West Sussex. According to Local

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth mother
08/09/1990	<p>Authority files both of Rachel's parents have learning disabilities and they struggled to care for her and her siblings.</p> <p>Rachel would have been aged 9 months at this time. An assessment report placed on file refers to her parents as having difficulties in following through instructions, being in debt, not stimulating or playing with their children, living in unhygienic conditions and not providing regular nutritional food. As a result of these concerns, Rachel was placed on a child protection plan at the age of 9 months.</p>
20/08/1991	<p>Rachel (aged 1 year and 2 months at this time) was placed with her older sister Cary (then aged 2 years) in the care of her paternal grandmother, Mrs French.</p>
15/05/1992	<p>A (then termed) Residence Order was granted to Mrs French.</p> <p>When Rachel was aged 13, Mrs French died and, after a short period of time staying with a friend, Rachel became voluntarily accommodated under S20 of the Children Act, 1989 when she was placed in short-term foster care for a year. Following this, Rachel went to live with long term foster carers where she remained until the age of 18 years old when she moved into a supported living environment.</p>
20/09/2006	<p>Rachel had her first child, Terry. At the time of Terry's birth, Rachel was living with her then partner, Terry's father, in the Suffolk area. Information taken from files states that Rachel alleges that Terry's father raped her and this action resulted in her becoming pregnant with Terry. Due to Suffolk Children's Services' concerns that Rachel was struggling to provide appropriate care for Terry (leaving Terry in soiled nappies, making up feeds incorrectly, unsafe handling, reluctance to</p>

	<p>act on medical advice, domestic abuse between Rachel and her new partner – not Terry’s father, and difficulties in regulating her behaviour and reactions (shouting and swearing) around Terry), Rachel went with Terry to a Mother and Baby foster placement when Terry was a few weeks old.</p> <p>Over a period of approximately 8 weeks, Rachel's care of Terry was assessed by Suffolk Children’s Services and the outcome of this assessment was to recommend that Terry did not remain in her care. Upon completion of this assessment, Rachel abruptly left the placement and Terry was subsequently adopted.</p>
October 2017	<p>Rachel begins her relationship with Chris. Prior to this Rachel reports being in a number of relationships which she has alleged were physically abusive.</p>
01/04 2018	<p>Chris and Rachel's first child together, Louise Green, was born. Rachel was placed in a parent and child foster placement with Louise and care proceedings were issued due to concerns about both parents' ability to parent safely and look after their baby. Following a number of assessments, the Final Hearing took place in September 2019 where Care and Placement Orders were granted in respect of Louise. Rachel moved out of placement and returned to live with Chris.</p> <p>Rachel was already heavily pregnant with Ryan by this time, and he was born two months later.</p>

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth mother

The child's birth father

Surname	Green
First names	Chris William

Names at child birth

The above names were used at the time of child birth If no, what were they

Other names (including familiar names)	
Date of Birth	21/04/78
Place of birth	Shoreham

Nationality	British
Immigration status	UK citizen
Racial origin, cultural and linguistic background	White English and English-speaking.
Address	Flat 2 30 Church Walk WORTHING West Sussex BN11 2LT
Give date when last confirmed	10/01/20
Local authority area	West Sussex

Please confirm current photo of the birth father is uploaded into this episode

Yes No

Where no photograph has been uploaded, please give reasons why	
Date of photograph	23/01/202

Give a brief description of the birth father	Chris is tall - about 6ft 4 inches and is large in build. Chris has brown hair which is cut short. At the time of writing this report, Chris has a moustache. Chris has blue grey eyes and has an earring in his left ear.
Briefly describe the personality and interests of the birth father	Chris is a quiet man, but is more chatty around people he knows well. Chris's passion is his dogs. He has his own dog, a collie named Shelly. He has had Shelly since she was 8 weeks old, and she is now nearly eight years old. Chris and Rachel also look after Rachel's staffy/sausage dog cross, Hunter together. Chris loves to take the dogs out to the park or beach for a walk or run, he spends lots of time doing this. Chris watches TV in the evenings and his favourite TV show is Eastenders. Chris likes lots of different foods but he doesn't like curry or spicy foods.
Brief description of the birth father's education history	Chris states that he enjoyed his time at school, saying he attended Herons in (a school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties) from the age of 5 to 16. He is still in touch today with friends he met there. He enjoyed activities such as swimming, cooking and woodwork whilst at the school. After leaving school he attended North College and undertook a course in basic skills, learning about things such as budgeting and cooking.
Current occupation or profession	After leaving college Chris states that he was signed off work due to his learning disability and has never had paid employment.
Brief details of his employment history	Chris has spoken about the volunteering he does one evening a week at a club for people with additional needs, and how much he enjoys this.

Brief summary of any relevant health factors

Chris suffers with hayfever and takes antihistamine tablets which are prescribed by his GP.
 Chris smokes a 5 - 15 hand rolled cigarettes a day. Chris does not suffer with mental health difficulties.
 Chris has a learning disability and his Full Scale IQ has been assessed by Dr Gary Taylor (report dated 02/11/2018) as being 67. At the time of his assessment Dr Taylor also concluded that Chris had an estimated reading age of six years-old and his working memory is in the extremely low range. An earlier assessment undertaken by Dr Karen Varney, concluded that Chris's Full Scale IQ was 65 thus placing his Learning Disability in the Extremely Low range.

Brief description of the home and neighbourhood where he lives

Chris and Rachel live in a one bedroom flat in Worthing which is supported accommodation for vulnerable adults. They have some difficulties keeping the home clean and tidy.

Birth father with PR for the child

How did he acquire PR for the child?

Rachel and Chris are married, and Chris is named on Ryan's birth certificate.

Does he know of the plan to place the child for adoption?

- Yes
- No

If yes, give details of any formal or advanced consent to the placement of the child for adoption and the making of the adoption order (witnessed by a CAFCASS officer)

Advanced consent is not given and Chris and Rachel will be opposing the care plan of adoption for Ryan.

If no, has the agency decided that it is appropriate to counsel and advise him? Is there any ongoing contact with him directly or through another agency?

Brief history of birth father

Summary and brief social history of the birth father

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth father
	Information on Local Authority files is quite limited with regards to Chris's childhood, however, this historical information states

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth father
	<p>that Chris was placed on what was then the Child Protection Register at the age of 12 due to sustaining bruising as a result of being assaulted by his brother in law.</p> <p>Numerous case notes on Chris's file outline that he has experienced a number of housing and debt issues and he was homeless for a period of time.</p> <p>Ryan is Chris's 2nd child. He and Rachel then have Louise together, who was born in September 2018. Louise is in foster care awaiting adoption.</p> <p>During a Clinical Psychology assessment undertaken in 2004, Chris recounted that his childhood was very sad and that he coped by never speaking about it. He states that he never had a relationship with his father. He stated that his mother raised him, and that he had "too many" siblings. He said at this time that he was in touch with one sister. He states he left home at age 17 and went to live in a hostel.</p> <p>During the care proceedings he disclosed to the social worker that he was physically and sexually abused by his birth father. He also reported seeing his nephew being sexually abused by his father.</p> <p>There are different versions of Chris's life story which he has provided to different professionals during assessments he has been part of.</p> <p>Chris has disclosed that he was in care for a period of time following him making a disclosure of abuse at school. He has also said that he was 'kicked out of home' by his mother and step-father at age 16.'</p>

Date where known	Summary and brief social history of the birth father

Birth father without PR for the child

Is the identity of the birth father without PR known to the agency?

Yes No

Has the paternity of the child been confirmed?

Yes No

If yes, indicate how this was confirmed

Is anyone else claiming paternity of the child?

Yes No

If yes, give brief details

Does the birth father know of the birth of the child and what contact has there been with the agency?

If he knows, set out what steps have been taken to counsel and advise him. Are these continuing? If not and the agency knows his identity, has the agency decided that it is appropriate to counsel and advise him? Is there any ongoing contact with him directly or through another agency?

Does the birth father intend to apply for parental responsibility for the child, or for a residence or contact order?

Yes No

If yes, give details

Relationship between birth parents

Relationship with child's birth mother

What was the status of the birth father's relationship with the child's birth mother at the time of the birth of the child (married, cohabiting) and what is the current status of the relationship (separated, divorced, living apart) - include dates

Rachel has known Chris since she was 16 but they only began their relationship in 2017. Rachel and Chris married in Worthing on 24th October 2018.

Give a brief description of the past and current relationship of the birth parents with each other

Chris and Rachel describe a happy relationship, and have been together for 2.5 years now. They have many shared interests, including their dogs and the social groups they attend, and have lots of mutual friends together. The couple enjoy eating out together and watching TV at home. They say that they never argue and that they are very happy together.

Chris and Rachel had to live apart for a year, whilst Rachel was in a parent-and-baby placement with Louise. This was difficult for them, as they missed each other, but they were able to maintain their relationship and spend time together, and Rachel moved back in with Chris when she moved out of the placement in September 2019.

and their views of this

Birth parents' current partners

If the child's birth mother's current partner is not the birth father of the child, please complete

First names	
Surname	
Other names (including familiar names)	

Sex

Male Female

Occupation or profession	
Status and length of relationship with birth mother (married, civil partnership, cohabiting), including relevant dates	

Birth father's current partner (if not the child's birth mother)

First names	
Surname	
Other names (including familiar names)	

Sex

Male Female

Occupation or profession	
Status and length of relationship with birth father (married, civil partnership,	

cohabiting), including relevant dates

Child siblings (full or half)

Complete this section for each identified sibling - 1

Person name	Terry Green	
Date of Birth	29/08/2014	
Ethnicity	White	
Place of birth	Suffolk	

Sex

Male Female

Nationality

Birth mother

Birth mother surname

Birth mother first name(s)

Birth father

Birth father surname

Birth father first name

Current carer's name (where appropriate)

Current carer's address (if appropriate)

Relationship/status of current carer to child

Please confirm current photo of the sibling is uploaded into this episode

Yes No

Where no photograph has been uploaded, please give reasons why

Date of photograph

Give a brief description of the child and their personality

Current circumstances and legal status of sibling

Set out the child's current circumstances, whether they are currently "looked after", and if so give details of the local authority that has responsibility for this sibling and their legal status. If there

is a court order in force, give details of the type of order, the name of the court and the date on which the order was made. If an order has been applied for and not yet granted, give brief details.

Terry is adopted.

Plan for this sibling

Give brief details of the current plan for this sibling and whether a sibling assessment has been completed. If the plan for this sibling is adoption, indicate if this sibling is to be placed with the child subject to this CPR or any other siblings.

Terry will remain living with his adoptive family.

Rachel has annual letterbox contact with Terry's adopters but has not written as she feels she would rather see Terry in person.

Sibling relationship

Describe the nature of the relationship between this sibling and the child, including the length of the relationship, where and when they have lived together, the frequency of any contact and the quality of their relationship. Summarise the findings and outcome of any sibling assessment undertaken and state what decisions have been made about placement and the importance of

Terry is not aware of Ryan's existence as yet. West Sussex Adoption Team have approached Suffolk Adoption Team to make enquiries as to whether Terry's adoptive parents would like any information about Ryan or would like to have contact for the children.

them maintaining a relationship.

Complete this section for each identified sibling - 2

Person name Louise Green
 Date of Birth 04/09/2018
 Ethnicity White British
 Place of birth Worthing

Sex

Male

Female

British

Nationality

Birth mother

Birth mother surname

Green

Birth mother first name(s)

Rachel

Birth father surname

Green

Birth father first name

Chris

Current carer's name (where appropriate)

Placed for adoption

Current carer's address (if appropriate)

Confidential

Relationship/status of current carer to child

Placed for adoption

Please confirm current photo of the sibling is uploaded into this episode

Yes No

Where no photograph has been uploaded, please give reasons why

Louise is placed for adoption and so no photograph has been uploaded due to confidentiality

Date of photograph

Give a brief description of the child and their personality

Louise is 16 months old and has fair hair and blue eyes (both Rachel and Chris have blue eyes). She is an active toddler who is very nearly walking independently, and who enjoys playing with her toys

Current circumstances and legal status of sibling
Set out the child's current circumstances, whether they are currently "looked after", and if so give details of the local authority that has responsibility for this sibling and their legal status. If there is a court order in force, give details of the type of order, the name of the court and the date on which the order was made. If an order has been applied for and not yet granted, give brief details.

Louise's vocabulary is developing and she is learning new words and skills all the time.

Louise was made subject to a Placement Order in September 2019 and has been matched and placed with prospective adopters. Photographs have been gathered for the purpose of life story work for both children.

Plan for this sibling

Give brief details of the current plan for this sibling and whether a sibling assessment has been completed. If the plan for this sibling is adoption, indicate if this sibling is to be placed with the child subject to this CPR or any other siblings.

Consideration has been given as to whether Louise and Ryan should be adopted together. A Professionals Meeting was held on in November 2019 to consider this, including the social workers for both children, the IRO for the children, and an adoption team manager. A collective decision was reached that we should progress Louise's adoption plan and that she should not be delayed for 6-9 months to wait for Ryan's proceedings to conclude. It was noted that the children have not lived together and that if they were to be adopted together, their needs as a sibling pair should be assessed in foster care together which would entail a move for both children. Ryan's young age, and the unknown future needs of both of these young children, was also noted.

Sibling relationship

Describe the nature of the relationship between this sibling and the child, including the length of the relationship, where and when they have lived together, the frequency of any contact and the quality of their relationship. Summarise the findings and outcome of any sibling assessment

Louise and Ryan have met each other on a couple of occasions at the time of writing this report. They both attended a contact with Rachel and Chris together, so that Rachel and Chris could experience having both children together and photographs could be taken. Louise's prospective adopters and Ryan's foster carers are in touch with each other and have had two "sibling time" visits so that the children can spend some time together before Louise is adopted.

undertaken and state what decisions have been made about placement and the importance of them maintaining a relationship.

Complete this section for each identified sibling - 3

Person name

Date of Birth

Ethnicity

Place of birth

Sex

Male

Female

Nationality

Birth mother

Birth mother surname

--

Birth mother first
name(s)

--

Birth father

Birth father surname

Birth father first name

Current carer's name (where appropriate)

Current carer's address (if appropriate)

Relationship/status of current carer to child

Please confirm current photo of the sibling is uploaded into this episode

Yes

No

Where no photograph has been uploaded, please give reasons why

Date of photograph

Give a brief description of the child and their personality

Current circumstances and legal status of sibling

Set out the child's current circumstances, whether they are currently "looked after", and if so give details of the local authority that has responsibility for this sibling and their legal status. If there is a court order in force, give details of the type of order, the name of the court and the date on which the order was made. If an order has been applied for and not yet granted, give brief details.

Plan for this sibling

Give brief details of the current plan for this sibling and whether a sibling assessment has been completed. If the plan for this sibling is adoption, indicate if this sibling is to be placed with the child subject to this CPR or any other siblings.

Sibling relationship

Describe the nature of the relationship between this sibling and the child, including the length of the relationship, where and when they have lived together, the frequency of any contact and the quality of their relationship. Summarise the findings and outcome of any sibling assessment undertaken and state what decisions have been made about placement and the importance of them maintaining a relationship.

Complete this section for each identified sibling - 4

Person name

Date of Birth

Ethnicity

Place of birth

Sex

Male

Female

Nationality

Birth father

Birth father surname

Birth father first name

Current carer's name (where appropriate)

Current carer's address (if appropriate)

Relationship/status of current carer to child

Please confirm current photo of the sibling is uploaded into this episode

Yes

No

Where no photograph has been uploaded, please give reasons why

Date of photograph

Give a brief description of the child and their personality

Current circumstances and legal status of sibling

Set out the child's current circumstances, whether they are currently "looked after", and if so give details of the local authority that has responsibility for this sibling and their legal status. If there is a court order in force, give details of the type of order, the name of the court and the date on which the order was made. If an order has been applied for and not yet granted, give brief details.

Plan for this sibling

Give brief details of the current plan for this sibling and whether a sibling assessment has been completed. If the plan for this sibling is adoption, indicate if this sibling is to be placed with the child subject to this CPR or any other siblings.

Sibling relationship

Describe the nature of the relationship between this sibling and the child, including the length of the relationship, where and when they have lived together, the frequency of any contact and the quality of their relationship. Summarise the findings and outcome of any sibling assessment undertaken and state what decisions have been made about placement and the importance of them maintaining a relationship.

Other significant people

Other significant relatives or relevant people

Name	Relationship and significance to the child (including if they hold PR)	View of the plan and date obtained
		Rachel and Chris report that they are largely estranged from their respective families, and do not see them. They say that they have a number of good friends locally from the clubs they attend, including their friend who Ryan is named after.

Current contact arrangements

Current contact arrangements - Parent(s) and Grandparent(s) - 1

Name	Rachel and Chris Green
Relationship to child	Birth mother
What are the current arrangements? (Include frequency, location and supervision arrangements)	Rachel and Chris currently see Ryan three times per week at a supervised contact centre.

Child's experience of contact (Give brief details of the quality of this contact. Is it meeting the child's needs?)

Contact reports indicate that Rachel and Chris cuddle Ryan appropriately in contact and are loving and affectionate towards him. They sometimes need prompting about hygiene issues such as wiping poo off the changing mat.

Ryan's foster carer does not feel that he is distressed after contact or that it disrupts his routine too much, as he is so young he spends much of the day asleep at the moment.

Current contact arrangements - Siblings - 1

Name

Louise Green

What are the current arrangements? (Include frequency, location and supervision arrangements)

Louise's adopters and Ryan's foster carer have each other's phone numbers and have arranged a couple of "sibling time" playdates for the children, to take place. This is so that the children can have some time together, and photographs taken, for their lifestory books.

Louise and Ryan have also had one contact session together with their parents, and photos of this are uploaded with this CPR.

Child's experience of contact (Give brief details of the quality of this contact. Is it meeting the child's needs?)

Ryan appears to enjoy time spent with other children and is not adversely impacted by seeing Louise.

Current contact arrangements - Other significant people - 0

Name

--

Relationship

--

What are the current arrangements? (Include frequency, location and supervision arrangements)

--

Child's experience of contact (Give brief details of the quality of this contact. Is it meeting the child's needs?)

--

Proposed contact arrangements

Proposed transitional contact arrangements for the child

What transitional arrangements are planned once the care order/placement order is made?

Should Care and Placement Orders be granted, Rachel and Chris's contact with Ryan would be reduced over a three week period to a 'wish you well' contact. Contact would be supervised at a contact centre. Rachel and Chris have benefitted from having the same contact supervisor for the majority of their contacts with Louise and Ryan and she will supervise the contact reduction. Ryan's social worker will be present to support all parties with the final contact.

Planned post placement and post adoption contact arrangements

Proposed contact arrangements - Parent(s) and Grandparents - 1

What are the proposed contact arrangements post-placement and post-adoption order as set out in the Care Plan? Set out the reasons for the plan and how it is considered to meet the needs of the child.

Give details of the arrangements for all relevant people set out below, e.g. direct or letterbox, frequency, duration, any other relevant details and any support or supervision requirements.

Relationship to child

Birth mother

Purpose of contact

The purpose of any contact with birth parents for an adopted child, is to enable the child to have access to up to date information about his birth family and for a child to know that he is valued and remembered by birth family members. At different times in the child's life, contact may help promote a positive sense of identity (by providing a child with genealogical and historical information) and may enable emotional healing, if a birth parent is helped to acknowledge their difficulties and support them to feel a sense of belonging in their new family.

Making judgements about contact is not easy, nor is it something that can be achieved as a 'one-off' piece of work – judgements will flow from an effective working relationship with and between the birth parents and adoptive parents. Direct contact works well when it can be flexible and responsive to a child's developing needs and the changing circumstances of the child, birth family and adoptive family. All the research around contact for adopted children is clear that a regular fixed arrangement rarely works well and that flexibility and the adults working together is key to the contact having any benefit for the child, and this is why it is important that parents (particularly those with learning needs) are not given promises of a "guaranteed" schedule for direct contact. Where difficulties do develop, this is often because expectations have been set for a regular fixed arrangement and trust is undermined when this needs to change to meet the child's developing needs and wishes. What usually works best is a one off meeting or series of meetings at points in a child's life, which fit with the child and their family's developing needs, and this can be supplemented by keeping in contact with the birth family and encouraging a flow of information through the letterbox system.

We therefore propose annual letterbox contact for Chris and Rachel with Ryan's adoptive parent/s and hope to be able to introduce them in person during the transition period so that all parties know who they are writing to.

Type of contact planned

Direct

Letterbox

Proposed frequency, duration and other details

Annually each summer, to avoid birthday and Christmas.

Details - to include frequency and duration

As above.

Proposed contact arrangements - Parent(s) and Grandparents - 2

What are the proposed contact arrangements post-placement and post-adoption order as set out in the Care Plan? Set out the reasons for the plan and how it is considered to meet the needs of the child.

Give details of the arrangements for all relevant people set out below, e.g. direct or letterbox, frequency, duration, any other relevant details and any support or supervision requirements.

Relationship to child

Birth father

Purpose of contact

As for birth mother, above. Chris and Rachel will write together and can have support to do so.

Type of contact planned

Direct

Letterbox

Proposed frequency, duration and other details

Details - to include frequency and duration

Proposed contact arrangements - Siblings - 1

What are the proposed contact arrangements post-placement and post-adoption order as set out in the Care Plan? Set out the reasons for the plan and how it is considered to meet the needs of the child.

Name

Terry

Purpose of contact

Adoption South East have been approached to open up dialogue with the adoptive families of Terry, to ascertain whether they would like to have any information about Ryan, whether they would like to meet his prospective adopters in due course, and whether they would like to have contact in any form. Chris and Rachel are aware of this.

Type of contact planned

Direct

Letterbox

Proposed frequency, duration and other details

Details - to include frequency and duration

Proposed contact arrangements - Siblings - 2

What are the proposed contact arrangements post-placement and post-adoption order as set out in the Care Plan? Set out the reasons for the plan and how it is considered to meet the needs of the child.

Name	Louise Green
Purpose of contact	To enable the full siblings to grow up with some knowledge of each other.

Type of contact planned

Direct
 Letterbox

Proposed frequency, duration and other details	Ryan and Louise have spent some time together and it is proposed to introduce Louise's adopters to Ryan's adopters once a match is identified for Ryan. We foresee that the two adoptive families will be able to facilitate spending time together but this can be supported if any party requires.
--	--

Details - to include frequency and duration	We hope that the children will be able to spend time together twice a year as a starting point, whilst they are both still so young.
---	--

Proposed contact arrangements - Other significant people - 0

What are the proposed contact arrangements post-placement and post-adoption order as set out in the Care Plan? Set out the reasons for the plan and how it is considered to meet the needs of the child.

Name Relationship	
Purpose of contact	
Type of contact planned	

Direct
 Letterbox

Proposed frequency, duration and other details	
--	--

Details - to include frequency and duration	
---	--

Key Decisions and Actions

Chronology

Date	Key decision/action
29/10/2019	Legal Planning Meeting held - decision made to issue care proceedings at birth and seek a baby-only placement for Ryan.
04/11/2019	Permanence Planning Meeting held - agreed that adoption will be likely care plan for Ryan
26/11/2019	Ryan is born
29/11/2019	Interim Care Order granted

Date	Key decision/action
02/12/2019	Ryan moved from hospital to foster placement
29/12/2019	CFIS home visit to share the outcome of their updated PAMS assessment with Rachel and Chris
13/12/2019	Case Management Hearing at court - next hearing timetabled for 19th March (Issues Resolution Hearing) and further teaching from CFIS ordered.

Support to the birth mother

See 'Birth parent's views' section in Checklist, Guidance and Tools

What support or services has the birth mother been offered or taken up? Has she been referred for/received counselling from an independent person in relation to the plan for adoption? (Give details)

Rachel is working with the PAUSE service (which provides support for mothers who have had more than one child permanently removed from their care). Rachel has declined a referral to PAC adoption counselling, stating that she doesn't find counselling helpful.

Rachel has her own social worker from Adult Services who supports her with accessing services and paperwork/housing issues.

Has the birth mother been given an opportunity to state her views on the adoption plan for the child? Give date when views were last ascertained and briefly describe the outcome and her views. If no views were received, set out attempts made and reasons for non-completion.

Rachel strongly opposes the adoption plan for Ryan. She and Chris met with the Social Worker on 7/1/2020 to provide their views for this CPR and to discuss in general the adoption planning for both Louise and Ryan. They both stated that they will seek the return of both children to their care and seemed unclear about Ryan's proceedings being separate from Louise's - they thought that their current teaching programme via CFIS was to have both children returned to them. Rachel and Chris refute that they are unable to parent their children safely and said that they will continue to "fight" for the children to be returned to them. Rachel and Chris were given simplified written contribution forms but declined to complete them with the social worker at the meeting.

Has the birth mother been shown the relevant sections of this CPR?

- Yes No

If yes, note date shown and briefly describe the outcome of this. If no, give reasons.

I am meeting Rachel and Chris in the coming weeks to go through relevant sections of this CPR, and Louise's CPR. It was too much for them to cope with at our first meeting.

If the birth mother has written her own account, is this included within or appended to this report?

Support to the birth father

See 'Birth parent's views' section in Checklist, Guidance and Tools

What support or services has the birth father been offered or taken up? Has he been referred for/received counselling from an independent person in relation to the plan for adoption? (Give details)

Chris has declined a referral to PAC adoption counselling and felt that he would not find this helpful. Chris has a social worker from adult services who continues to provide support around budgeting, home issues and general signposting.

Has the birth father been given an opportunity to state his views on the adoption plan for the child? Give date when views were last ascertained and briefly describe the outcome and his views. If no views were received, set out attempts made and reasons for non-completion.

Chris strongly opposes the adoption plan for Ryan. He and Rachel met with the Social Worker on 7/1/2020 to provide their views for this CPR and to discuss in general the adoption planning for both Louise and Ryan. They both stated that they will seek the return of both children to their care and seemed unclear about Ryan's proceedings being separate from Louise's - they thought that their current teaching programme via CFIS was to have both children returned to them. Rachel and Chris refute that they are unable to parent their children safely and said that they will continue to "fight" for the children to be returned to them. Rachel and Chris were given simplified written contribution forms but declined to complete them with the social worker at the meeting.

Has the birth father been shown the relevant sections of this CPR?

Yes

No

If yes, note date shown and briefly describe the outcome of this. If no, give reasons.

I am meeting Rachel and Chris in the coming weeks to go through relevant sections of this CPR, and Louise's CPR. It was too much for them to cope with at our first meeting.

If the birth father has written his own account, is this included within or appended to this report?

[Empty box for response]

Ability of family members to offer permanent care

For each parent or guardian and/or where relevant the child's relatives or any other person where an assessment has taken place, set out a summary of the assessment findings and your analysis of their ability and willingness to provide the child with a secure environment that encourages their full development and meets their needs. Include the care/legal options that have been explored in relation to this carer and the reasons why the options have been discounted (ACA 2002 s.1(4)(f)(ii))

Birth mother

Name

Rachel Marie Green

Summary of assessment and social worker's analysis of their parenting capability - their willingness and ability to provide a secure environment in which the child can develop and how they could meet the child's needs within the child's timescale

Rachel's parenting abilities have been comprehensively assessed over the course of care proceedings for Terry and, most recently, Louise, where she lived in a parent and baby placement for twelve months. There has been further assessment undertaken during the proceedings for Ryan. Assessment of Rachel across three sets of care proceedings have concluded that she is unable to offer safe and consistent parenting to her children.

The PAMS assessment by Jenny Kelly dated 10/01/19 as part of the care proceedings for Louis summarises the concerns as such:

- Son, Terry, who did not remain in Mrs Green's care due to significant concerns regarding his mother's care of him. When the parenting assessment provided a negative conclusion Mrs Green walked out of the foster placement leaving Terry behind;
- The provision of basic care with regards to bathing Louise and keeping her clean is neglectful. Mrs Green appears to have low motivation in this regard and, despite being informed by the foster carer that Louise loved being given a bath by her

Mrs Green still refused to do this basic care task;

- Has difficulties in implementing basic care and household routines, for example, according to foster carer recordings, she does not follow guidance regarding a suitable routine for cleaning and sterilising Louise's bottles. A foster carer recording dated 10/12/2018 stated that Mrs Green had attempted to give Louise cold milk in her bottle. On investigation by the foster carer it appeared that Mrs Green had not boiled the kettle to warm up the milk. Mrs Green's response to this was that she had attempted to give her daughter the cold milk because Louise liked her milk in this way. Further Mrs Green does not wash her hands whilst performing basic care tasks for Louise, despite being reminded to do so;
- Chose to spend time with her friend instead of showing curiosity and interest in her daughter's health and development by attending her Initial Medical Review held on 11/12/2018 (ref. foster carer recording dated 11/12/2018);
- Does not readily stimulate Louise and displays low motivation to do this on a regular basis. In not doing this Mrs Green is unable to consistently promote a good attachment with her daughter which is essential for Louise's positive health and development as she grows;
- Does not easily take on board advice and suggestions from professionals around her (particularly the foster carer) with regards to providing care to Louise. In not listening to such advice Mrs Green may not learn how to give appropriate care to Louise going forward;
- Struggles to contain her emotions (sometimes in front of Louise) which leads me to be worried that, during these times, Mrs Green cannot take her daughter's feelings into consideration resulting in Louise becoming distressed. For example, during Louise's Child Looked After Review on 13/12/2018 Mrs Green became upset and angry with the foster carer and shouted at her whilst holding Louise. The result of this outburst was that Louise became upset and, despite Mrs Green being advised to hand her daughter to Mr Green, she refused to do this resulting in Louise becoming more distressed;
- Focuses on her own needs, for example, leaving her placement for longer than agreed to meet with Mr Green – then returning home and not acknowledging her daughter/taking an interest in what her daughter had been doing whilst she was out of the placement (ref. foster carer recording 28/22/2018) – this shows a basic lack of interest in Louise;
- Does not provide an appropriate role model for Louise with regards to her interactions with others, for example, Mrs Green can be rude and abrupt to others which is unsuitable behaviour to exhibit in front of her daughter;
- Has experienced past domestic abuse within her relationships. During an observation of contact held on 12/11/2018 Mrs Green disclosed to me that she had been hit twice on the side of her head by her "ex-friend" and she had been stamped on her head by her ex-partner. Such experiences may mean that she will have difficulties in protecting her daughter from entering into similar relationships when she is older;
- Does not budget effectively. Instead of spending her money on essentials or on her daughter Mrs Green prioritises her spending on minor items – Mrs Green purchased her friends a significant amount of Christmas presents and this is something which I would presume she can ill afford to do;
- Neglects her own personal hygiene to the extent that her foster carers have been required to regularly prompt Mrs Green to wash/bathe/wash her hair/clean her teeth. As a mother Mrs Green will be required to support Louise to be clean and tidy as she grows up and, in neglecting her own personal care needs, Mrs Green is not providing her daughter with a good role model in this regard; and
- Does not demonstrate that she can provide a clean and tidy living environment for her daughter to live in. According to foster carer recordings Mrs Green does not regularly undertake household chores and I have observed her bedroom, whilst tidy, to be stale smelling and dark due to the curtains being drawn.
- Both parents have demonstrated limited insight into their parenting capacity, please see the 'I Need Help' Form completed by Mr and Mrs Green which shows that parents did not feel they needed help in any areas of parenting; and
- The PAMS assessment comprises 14 parenting and daily living skills areas (Domains) and parents were asked all of the relevant questions relating to these Domains. The results show that parents require extensive help and support and, in fact, they require such assistance in 13 out of the 14 Domains. This demonstrates that they

lack a significant amount of knowledge and skills with regards to caring for children and for themselves.

Further teaching and observation has been undertaken by CFIS regarding Rachel and Chris's capacity to parent Ryan. The conclusion of this intervention (November 2019) was as follows:

Mr and Mrs Green attended all sessions offered, contributed to discussions and were able to affect some changes to the conditions within the home.

However in considering capacity to change, we need to consider knowledge, skills and practice. Whilst Mr and Mrs Green clearly wish to care for their child, they do appear to struggle to fully accept the necessary physical changes to their home and possibly to their lifestyle, if required.

For example at the start of the intervention, we wondered with Mr and Mrs Green if they would consider a parent and child placement, if this was to be suggested. Mrs Green advised she felt her mood deteriorated last time, due to being apart from her husband for almost one year (she indicated this by moving her hand in a downward motion). Both Mr and Mrs Green said no to the idea of Mr Green entering a parent and child placement as he could not leave the dogs, particularly one of the dogs who they described as a 'daddy's girl'. We are unclear if this view has changed following discussions, but it suggests the limited changes they themselves feel might be necessary to put into practice.

Their understanding of purpose and motivation also needs to be considered as this is likely to affect their ability to sustain any changes. Both struggled during the assessment to demonstrate emotional insight into the reasons why sanitary home conditions is a current concern and would be for a child in their care. During discussions, they struggled to identify what they could do differently for this child, with Mrs Green then adding that they are keeping the house clean this time. Both Mr and Mrs Green presented as carrying out suggested tasks without necessarily agreeing they were required. This is evidenced by the limitations of the changes and the remaining concerns and further changes suggested at the last observation visit.

During the intervention, the couple demonstrated some capacity to change in terms of some concrete changes having been made. However concerns remain about standards of health and hygiene within the home, including basics such as adequate floor space, a remaining pervasive odour and their ability to prioritise a constant provision of heating, daylight and fresh air.

The issues and concerns raised as part of this intervention are unfortunately likely to affect Mr and Mrs Green's capacity to provide safe and healthy care for a baby. Despite their positive efforts, overall the home conditions remain poor and in our opinion, are neither safe nor suitable for a new baby.

[Assessment and analysis of whether there should be an ongoing relationship with contact being continued and the value to the child of this happening](#)

Indirect contact is proposed and this is in line with Ryan's needs. In most cases, and especially when children are very young, these needs can be met through a facilitated exchange of information between adoptive families and birth parents. However, it is also clear that for many children, there develops over time a need or desire to have at least one face to face meeting with a birth parent, so that they can see what they are like for themselves and because often they have unanswered questions. Some children enjoy seeing their birth parents more regularly and others benefit more from less frequent meetings, at points in their lives where it is helpful to them and their adoptive families. It is very difficult to predict all the variables which will determine what will be best for each child in the future. Factors which are likely to influence whether contact will be beneficial include the child's emotional adjustment and how settled they are; the adoptive family feeling contact is beneficial and not detrimental for their child and birth parents having reached a genuine acceptance of their child being adopted and belonging in a new family, as well as accepting their part or role in not being able to offer the child safe care.

Their wishes and feelings regarding the plan for the child and date ascertained (if not covered elsewhere)

This is covered in sections 27 and 28 where Rachel and Chris's views are recorded.

Birth father (whether he has parental responsibility or not)

Name

Chris William Green

Summary of assessment and social worker's analysis of their parenting capability - their willingness and ability to provide a secure environment in which the child can develop and how they could meet the child's needs within the child's timescale

Chris has been involved in previous sets of care proceedings, for Louise's which only concluded in September 2019. All assessments of Chris have not recommended that he is able to provide care for any of the children. Further assessment and teaching has taken place during Ryan's care proceedings, which also do not recommend that Chris can safely parent.

- Has been assessed and not being suitable to provide care to his older child who has subsequently been adopted;
- Has poor personal hygiene and thus does not demonstrate that he is able to role model appropriate self-care for his daughter;
- Does not take appropriate actions to provide hygienic care to Louise, for example, contact supervisor recordings state that Mr Green regularly has dirty nails and he has been observed to put his finger in Louise’s mouth which could prompt her to be ill. During my observation Mr Green also appeared to be untruthful about washing his hands prior to changing Louise nappy in that he informed me he had already washed his hands but the contact supervisor informed me that he never washes his hands;
- Lives in a dirty and unhygienic home which is an unsuitable environment for Louise to live in. In living this way Mr Green demonstrates that this is his usual way of life and this environment would be completely inappropriate for Louise;
- Has no understanding or appreciation of the possible risks his dogs pose to Louise who is a very vulnerable young child and who requires protection from excitable animals such as those owned by Mr Green;
- Has a poor routine for saving money – according to Ms Wade, Mr Green’s support worker, Mr Green keeps his savings in a pot in his flat;
- When completing the Parent Questionnaire with Ms Macmillan Mr Green demonstrated a limited knowledge of abuse. During this session Mr Green spoke about his mother having sold his dog (whom he says he really loved) because she wanted money. However, in a previous session specifically looking at abuse (in terms of both recognising different forms of abuse, and whether he had experienced it) Mr Green made no mention of this event, stating that he had not experienced any abuse growing up
- Both parents have demonstrated limited insight into their parenting capacity, please see the ‘I Need Help’ Form completed by Mr and Mrs Green which shows that parents did not feel they needed help in any areas of parenting; and
- The PAMS assessment comprises 14 parenting and daily living skills areas (Domains) and parents were asked all of the relevant questions relating to these Domains. The results show that parents require extensive help and support and, in fact, they require such assistance in 13 out of the 14 Domains. This demonstrates that they lack a significant amount of knowledge and skills with regards to caring for children and for themselves.

Further teaching and observation has been undertaken by CFIS regarding Rachel and Chris's capacity to parent Ryan. Please see above section regarding Rachel where there is a conclusion of this intervention (November 2019), which did not recommend that Chris or Rachel should parent Ryan.

Assessment and analysis of whether there should be an ongoing relationship with contact being continued and the value to the child of this happening

Indirect contact is proposed and this is in line with Ryan's needs - see section 25 of this

Their wishes and feelings regarding the plan for the child and date ascertained (if not covered elsewhere)

This is covered in sections 27 and 28 where Rachel and Chris's views are recorded.

Any other person with parental responsibility

Name

--

Relationship to child

--

Summary of assessment and social worker's analysis of their parenting capability - their willingness and ability to provide a secure environment in which the child can develop and how they could meet the child's needs within the child's timescale

[Empty text box]

Assessment and analysis of whether there should be an ongoing relationship with contact being continued and the value to the child of this happening

[Empty text box]

Their wishes and feelings regarding the plan for the child and date ascertained (if not covered elsewhere)

[Empty text box]

Persons without parental responsibility who have shown interest in adopting the child

Name

Relationship to child

Summary of assessment and social worker's analysis of their parenting capability - their willingness and ability to provide a secure environment in which the child can develop and how they could meet the child's needs within the child's timescale

[Empty text box]

Assessment and analysis of whether there should be an ongoing relationship with contact being continued and the value to the child of this happening

[Empty text box]

Their wishes and feelings regarding the plan for the child and date ascertained (if not covered elsewhere)

[Empty text box]

Expert Opinion and Analysis of child's needs

Brief details of assessments of the child's needs, giving date undertaken and expert's opinion

Chris and Rachel have been comprehensively assessed in previous care proceedings for their older children, which has included psychological assessments of both of their cognitive abilities and a number of parenting assessments and interventions.

Ryan is a very young baby, born just two months after the conclusion of care proceedings for Louise where Rachel had spent twelve months in a parent and baby foster placement. His needs are commensurate with those of any newborn baby - requiring his basic care needs to be met, nurture, stimulation, hygiene, adequate nutrition, warmth and safe care. Rachel and Chris have been assessed as unable to meet these needs.

A PAMS assessment was undertaken in January 2019 as part of the care proceedings for Louise, and the conclusions from this are summarised in Section 29 of this report for each parent. In summary:

That Rachel and Chris would need extensive help and support in 13 of the 14 parenting domains, and lack a significant amount of knowledge and skills to take care of a child and themselves.

CFIS undertook an updating assessment (having comprehensively assessed Rachel and Chris's parenting capacity as part of Louise's proceedings less than a year ago) and their conclusions are as follows:

Mr and Mrs Green attended all sessions offered, contributed to discussions and were able to affect some changes to the conditions within the home.

However in considering capacity to change, we need to consider knowledge, skills and practice. Whilst Mr and Mrs Green clearly wish to care for their child, they do appear to struggle to fully accept the necessary physical changes to their home and possibly to their lifestyle, if required. For example at the start of the intervention, we wondered with Mr and Mrs Green if they would consider a parent and child placement, if this was to be suggested. Mrs Green advised she felt her mood deteriorated last time, due to being apart from her husband for almost one year (she indicated this by moving her hand in a downward motion). Both Mr and Mrs Green said no to the idea of Mr Green entering a parent and child placement as he could not leave the dogs, particularly one of the dogs who they described as a 'daddy's girl'. We are unclear if this view has changed following discussions, but it suggests the limited changes they themselves feel might be necessary to put into practice.

Their understanding of purpose and motivation also needs to be considered as this is likely to affect their ability to sustain any changes. Both struggled during the assessment to demonstrate emotional insight into the reasons why sanitary home conditions is a current concern and would be for a child in their care. During discussions, they struggled to identify what they could do differently for this child, with Mrs Green then adding that they are keeping the house clean this time. Both Mr and Mrs Green presented as carrying out suggested tasks without necessarily agreeing they were required. This is evidenced by the limitations of the changes and the remaining concerns and further changes suggested at the last observation visit.

During the intervention, the couple demonstrated some capacity to change in terms of some concrete changes having been made.

However concerns remain about standards of health and hygiene within the home, including basics such as adequate floor space, a remaining pervasive odour and their ability to prioritise a constant provision of heating, daylight and fresh air.

The issues and concerns raised as part of this intervention are unfortunately likely to affect Mr and Mrs Green's capacity to provide safe and healthy care for a baby. Despite their positive efforts, overall the home conditions remain poor and in our opinion, are neither safe nor suitable for a new baby.

CFIS were directed by the court to provide further teaching and support to Rachel and Chris, in particular to support them with meeting Ray- Zac's needs in contact. Their report, filed 11/2/2020, concluded that their original concerns remained as to Rachel and Chris's ability to parent Ray- Zac safely. The conclusion was as follows:

It is my understanding that Mr and Mrs Green have attended all contacts with Ryan Green and both were happy to engage in this intervention with the writers. From observations of contact, both parents can meet Ryan Green's physical needs well during this time – feeding, winding and changing him, with only some prompts on occasions. Both Mr and Mrs Green maintain good eye contact and interact appropriately with Ryan. Mr Green appears to enjoy interacting verbally with Ryan and the writers have observed Mr Green and Ryan Green mirror each other's facial movements, with basic noises and smiles. However, this is for a limited period, in a contained environment, with support.

The writers have highlighted concerns throughout this report including the couple's difficulty in retaining information and the potential impact on Ryan Green in future. As stated, we are mindful that both parents have learning difficulties. We are also aware that both parents have experienced incidences of neglectful parenting themselves as children.

We would reiterate the importance for the couple in engaging with supports that could help them reflect and process their own experiences. This would potentially help them better understand their own feelings and more able to empathise with others. Both tend to avoid difficult conversations and can present as annoyed and defensive regarding any discussion about future care plans for any of their children. Whilst we understand this might be a defence strategy, it limits their capacity to demonstrate a level of emotional awareness and an acceptance of what changes are required.

Mr and Mrs Green have demonstrated some capacity to change in terms of their ability to meet Ryan Green's physical needs during their contacts with him. They both appear more relaxed and confident about this. However, teaching during the sessions has appeared to have had limited impact on the parents' capacity to consider Ray- Zac's emotional needs and how he expresses these. This is a concern in terms of his future emotional development and ability to form and sustain relationships. These needs will change and become more challenging as he grows. The writers would have concerns about Mr and Mrs Green's capacity to meet the changing needs of a growing child.

Summary of the reasons for considering that adoption would be in the child's best interests

(Including addressing all the options which are realistically possible and analysis of the arguments for and against each option with date of relevant decision and reasons for any delay in implementing the decision)

Please attach 're BS' report for court or enter details below

First realistic option:

Placement with Rachel and Chris Green
Ryan would be raised by his parents and would grow up in his family or origin which would promote his sense of identity.
Ryan would be able to maintain links with wider family members whom his parents are in touch with.
Mr Green has the support of a worker from Southdown Housing who can help him with practical issues.

Factors in favour

Factors against

Mrs Green has a social worker who would support her to access all the support she would be entitled to.

Rachel and Chris have been comprehensively assessed as unable to meet Ryan's needs. Both parents both have a learning disability with Rachel also having ADHD. They have not been able to demonstrate significant change in their parenting capacity despite significant teaching and support during Louise's care proceedings (including twelve months in a parent-and baby placement for Rachel with Louise) and further teaching/support via CFIS during Ryan's care proceedings have not led to any significant improvements in Rachel and Chris's ability to parent.

If Ryan was placed with his parents, he would be at significant risk of experiencing neglect and harm through their poor parenting, which would affect his attachment development, safety and wellbeing, emotional development and life opportunities.

Rachel struggles to regulate her own emotions and behaviour and she becomes overwhelmed and angry. She would be unable to help Ray- Zac with his emotional regulation which is an important part of his development in terms of future mental health and well-being.

Rachel has not yet started treatment for ADHD and although this could help her concentration and distractedness it is not likely to change or improve her ability to parent Ryan significantly enough to reduce professional concerns.

Overall Chris and Rachel are not able to show that they understand or accept the Local Authority's concerns and are unlikely to work positively with social workers to ensure their son is safe and well. They continue to assert that there is no reason why Louise and Ryan should not be returned to their care.

Placement with Rachel and Chris would present a significant risk of placement breakdown and further moves in the care system as Rachel and Chris are assessed as unable to parent Ryan or keep him safe from harm, and it is likely that further care proceedings would be issued arising from their parenting deficits as Ryan grows up.

Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements

- Chris would continue to receive support from Southdown Housing but this would be withdrawn if he moved out of his flat (which he would need to if Ryan were returned to his and Rachel's care).

- Rachel would continue to have the support of her social worker who could also provide additional services who could provide practical support if Ryan were in her care. Adult services do not support parents to parent their children however and this support would need to be provided by Children's Social Care. Ryan would therefore need a continued social work service and an allocated social worker from within the Family Support and Protection Team.

- Due to the high level of concerns about the risk of significant harm it would be appropriate to convene a Child Protection Conference to ensure multi-agency support and monitoring of Ryan and it is very likely that a Child Protection Plan would be recommended.

- A Social Worker would visit a minimum of once every 10 working days (both announced and unannounced) and there would continue to be multi-agency core group meetings every 6 to 8 weeks.

- It is also likely that an application for a Court Order would be made.

No Order – the Local Authority is of the view that the risk of significant harm to Ryan in his parents’ care would mean that the no order principle does not apply.

Care Order – the Local Authority would need to complete Placement with Parents regulations 1991 and this would not be approved due to the very significant concerns held about Rachel and Chris's ability to parent. This is not an option that the Local Authority views as appropriate for Ray- Zac.

Supervision Order – this would allow the Local Authority to continue to monitor and support the family for up to a year and could be in place alongside other safeguarding processes such as a Child Protection plan.

Analysis

The assessments during the care proceedings for Louise and Ray- Zac have concluded that Rachel and Chris would need significant support and supervision which is beyond the realms of what could be provided for the duration of Ryan's childhood, and that Rachel and Chris do not have the capacity to learn how to parent safely within a reasonable timeframe for Ryan. There are also concerns that Chris and Rachel do not work well with professionals or accept the reason for social work involvement, and this could place Ryan at increased risk of harm if in the community with them. The Local Authority does not feel this is a safe option for Ryan and he is highly likely to experience significant harm to his health and development which would have a lifelong impact.

Second realistic option:
Factors in favour

Long-term foster care

Factors against

- Ryan would be reassured of Legal stability if a Care Order was granted.
- The Local Authority would share Parental Responsibility with overriding authority allowing for decisions in the interest of Ryan to be made.
- Ryan will be safeguarded from significant harm.
- Changes or improvements to parents' lifestyle would be monitored and reviewed throughout the Looked After Child process and therefore rehabilitation could be considered in the future.
- Ryan would be able to maintain a relationship with Rachel and Chris through supervised contact, whilst receiving safe parenting in foster care.

- Ryan would not have a permanence plan that offers permanent stability for him.
- Ryan would remain a child in care for the duration of his childhood, and be subject to professional intervention throughout.
- Ryan would be vulnerable to experiencing moves and changes of caregiver during his childhood, as fostering is not a permanent option for a child.
- Regular and permanent contact with Ryan's birth family would be a feature which may be confusing and upsetting and could prevent him from forming positive attachments to his carers.
- Ryan's attachment development would be impacted by any potential moves within the care system, which would have a lifelong impact on his emotional development.
- Ryan would have to move on from his current foster family and manage a change in caregiver/transition.

Relevant Support Services and Monitoring Arrangements: Page 43 of 40

- Support of a Social Worker for the duration of his childhood and as a care leaver.

- Support of universal services.
 - His carers would have the support of their own supervising social worker.
 - Consideration to additional support services as and when the need arises.
 Analysis:
 Long term foster care is not considered by the Local Authority to be a suitable permanence plan for a child of Ryan's age. He needs security and stability and the opportunity to form permanent secure attachments which will optimise his development and life opportunities.

Third realistic option:

Factors in favour

Adoption

- Ryan would have a family to grow up in who are fully committed to him, and would make a lifelong commitment to him.
 - Ryan would have a sense of permanence in his adoptive family and be part of a wider family unit where he would have relationships with grandparents, aunties, cousins etc
 - Ryan would cease to be a Looked After Child once an Adoption Order is granted and would therefore not be subject to ongoing social work involvement.

Factors against

- Adoption should only be considered if there are no other options for a child as it legally changes their relationship with their parents. If adopted, Ryan would cease to be a member of his birth family and will have to develop an understanding of his identity as an adopted person.
 - Ryan will have to move from his current foster placement and manage a transition to an adoptive family.
 - Ryan would not see his parents for the remainder of his childhood, unless direct contact was felt to be in his interest by his adoptive parent/ s, as indirect letterbox contact would be recommended.
 - Although significantly less common than with long term foster placements there is a risk of placement breakdown.

Relevant Support Services and monitoring:
 - Ryan would remain a Looked After Child until as Adoption Order is made. He would remain subject to the Looked After Children's process, and will therefore continue to have medicals, early years PEPs and her care plan would be reviewed every six months by an Independent Reviewing Officer.
 - Ryan would continue to have the support of an allocated social worker until an Adoption Order is made.
 - Life-story work and a later life letter will be prepared for Ryan.
 - The foster carer would have the support of her supervising social worker.
 - Prospective adopters also have support from their adoption social worker.
 - Adoption support would be available through the Special Guardianship and Adoption Support Service (SGAS) should Ryan be permanently placed with an adoptive family. This support could include advice and support with sharing Ryan's lifestory with him, therapeutic parenting groups, and access to the Adoption Support Fund for funding for therapeutic support for Ryan and his adoptive family.

Reason why adoption
is the preferred and

The Local Authority considers that it would be unsafe for Ryan to be cared for by his parents, as their capacity to meet his needs has not

**proposed placement
option**

developed despite significant support and intervention to a sufficient level where they could safely parent him.

There have been no kinship placements put forward for Ryan, which means that permanent placement outside of his family is the only option.

As a very young baby, adoption is the most suitable option for Ryan as this would provide him with lifelong relationships in a new family, and legal security of his permanence with them. Long-term fostering is not considered to be a permanent or stable option, particularly for such a young child, whose primary need is for permanence.

Section C: Recommendations

The relative merits of a placement order and other orders (such as a residence order or special guardianship order), including an assessment of why the child's long-term interests are likely to be best met by adoption rather than by any other order

Ryan's primary need is for permanence in a family who will make a lifelong commitment to him, provide him with safe and nurturing care, and enable him to make lifelong relationships and experience stable family life. Sadly his parents are unable to provide this for him, just as they have been assessed as unable to meet the needs of their older children. This meant that permanence for Ryan away from his birth parents needed to be considered.

There are no kinship placements proposed for Ryan. Rachel and Chris put forward two potential kinship options during the proceedings for Louise, both of which were assessed as unsuitable and did not contest the outcome of these assessments. No new kinship placements have been put forward by Rachel and Chris during Ryan's proceedings.

Long-term fostering is not a secure or appropriate plan for a child of Ryan's age. Ryan needs stability and a sense of belonging in a family, which long-term fostering would not afford him.

Adoption is therefore the proposed care plan for Ryan, and a Placement Order is

~~required in order for the Local Authority to progress an adoption plan for Ryan~~
Recommendations as to whether there should be future contact arrangements (or not), including whether a contact order under section 26 of the 2002 Act should be made

We are proposing annual letterbox contact for Ryan's adopter/s with Rachel and Chris, and hope that Rachel and Chris will engage with the social worker so that a meeting can be facilitated between the parents and adopter/s. We have also approached the adoptive families of Terry, Chris Jnr and Sharlene, and hope that there will be the opportunity for Ryan to have some contact with his half-siblings, or updated information about them, as he grows up.

Louise is being matched with adopters and we are hoping that she will be placed in March 2020. We propose that the respective adopters of Louise and Ryan have a facilitated meeting at an early stage, with a view to them establishing informal contact between the two families so that the children can see each other as they grow up. This can be facilitated via the adoption support team if necessary. Louise's prospective adopters are very much in support of keeping in touch with Ryan's adopter/s.