

Child Permanence Meeting

Permanence means:

To ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond and to give them a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging.

The purpose of a Child Permanence Meeting is to consider the most effective route to securing early permanence of a child.

A Child Permanence Meeting must be convened when a child enters the Public Law outline or within six weeks of the child becoming looked after, thus two weeks after their initial Child in Care Review. Every Child must have a Permanency Plan which is ratified by the Second Child in Care Review. The Child Permanence meeting informs such permanence planning.

A Child Permanence meeting takes place every six weeks until the child is living in their forever home. Meetings can be more frequent at the point of matching, introductions and support/monitoring of introductions.

Aims

1. To prevent drift and delay for children subject of Section 20 voluntary accommodation.
2. To concurrently plan for all children subject of family court proceedings:
 - Reunification with parents
 - Placement with family as a family arrangement/ No Order Principal
 - Placement with family as part of a legal order: Child Arrangements Order, Care Order, Special Guardianship Order.
 - Placement in Local Authority Care (Foster Care or Residential Care)
 - Adoption and early notification to the regional adoption agency
3. To identify and signpost to additional support needs for the child.
4. To manage risk against placements i.e. abduction, violence, geographical distance
5. To consider the links/matches for children
6. To plan profiles, introductions and transitions to permanence.

Attendance

The Child's Social Worker organises the Child Permanence Meeting. Depending on the stage of permanence, invites include, but are not limited to, the Team Manager (or in highly complex circumstances the Service Manager), the permanence coordinator, the virtual school, Dudley Lighthouse Links and the adoption family finder, the supervising social worker or the current carers for the child. The Independent Reviewing Officer should be informed of the meeting and can attend if they choose to.

The meeting should be chaired Team Manager.

Agenda/Minutes/Report and Decision Making

Please see [CHILD PERMANENCE MEETING AGENDA](#). The minutes/report will inform discussion at the Achieving Early Permanence Panel.

Implementation of the Permanence Plan

Following a review to agree the plan, the child(ren) will need to be presented to the Adoption Panel, (the Agency Decision Maker for non-consenting adoptions), or the Fostering Panel (for permanent fostering), or in the case of **Special Guardianship** and **Child Arrangements Orders** to the Area Resource Panel if financial assessment is being requested.

If the Permanence Plan delayed, the Independent Reviewing Officer must reconsider the plan i.e. Adoption/Placement Order, convene an early Child in Care Review and consider if the plan is the right plan for the child.

It is the responsibility of the relevant Service Manager to ensure that a Permanency Planning Meeting is held to discuss the drift in the implementation of the Permanency Plans and/or family finding.

Dispute Resolution

Dissenting views needs to be escalated via the Achieving Early Permanence Panel and Independent Reviewing officer.