

Permanence Monitoring Panel

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 Permanence Monitoring Panel a strategic panel for the tracking of all children who are looked after. The Permanence Monitoring Panel identifies and analyses trends in Dudley MBC's performance with the aim to address strategic barriers.

The Panel meets monthly to review data, trends and progress, celebrate success and address strategic barriers to ensuring early permanence for children.

Aims

The Permanence Monitoring Panel will

1. Agree a data set and tracking mechanism throughout the child's permanence journey.
2. Monitor the performance of multi-agency working to achieve good, permanent outcomes, early for all children.
3. Hold Dudley MBC and partners to account for any delay in ensuring permanence are prioritised early
4. Identify any gaps/barriers in services and mobilise support to fill those gaps.
5. Celebrate good outcomes.
6. Report to the Director Children Services.

Panel Membership

- Head of Service, Children and Families (Chair)
- Intelligence, Performance and Partnerships
- Service Manager for Fostering
- Service Manager for Safeguarding and Review
- Court Progression Manager
- Fostering Panel advisor.
- Adoption at Heart
- Adoption Panel Advisor
- Achieving Early Permanence Panel Administrator

Accountability

The Panel is accountable to the Service Director for Children.

The Panel provides quarterly data to the Corporate Parenting Board, Permanence Working Group.

Panel information will support Dudley MBC in its representation at Adoption at Heart

Panel information will support Dudley MBC in its representation at the local Family Justice Board.

Heidi Henderson, 5th January 2020 to be reviewed on 4th January 2022

Panel Process

The Panel is chaired by the Head of Service, Children and Families, who represents Dudley at Adoption@heart Operations Group.

Data as collected from Child Permanence Meetings, Achieving Early Permanence and Liquid Logic dashboard reports. The meeting will interrogate data to celebrate performance, identify trends, prevent delays and identify any gaps in service delivery.

The Panel will make proposals to address any issues identified.

Trends and proposals linked with services will be appropriately escalated and addressed in individual services with appropriate escalation and discussion with the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT).

Any gaps in services and proposals will be identified and discussed at the Children's Services Senior Management Team (SMT) and where additional support from existing services are required, brought to discussion at Directorate Leadership Team.

Proposed draft data set

- Children in Care confirmation of permanency plan at second review
- Children in Care with care plan and placements for long term fostering and to confirm they have been approved as long-term match at fostering panel and fostering ADM.
- Children with long term fostering as care plan but where this is not recorded as their placement
- Children in Care with a care order made 6+ months previously and where their care plan is not long-term fostering.
- No of Children in pre proceedings and length of time
- No of children in proceedings, length of time and time to Final Hearing
- Children with ADM decision for adoption
- Timeliness of Placement Order made; for matching; for placement; for application; for order
- Children with a Placement Order, where adoption is no longer an appropriate plan; application to discharge placement order, ratifying the change of care plan, matching, placement and application for SGO or where appropriate long-term fostering.
- Children in Foster to Adopt placement and timescale
- Children with plan for Special Guardianship Order
- Children with a plan for Reunification following Placement with Parent.
- Timescale for application and for order