

	Adoption	Fostering under Interim / Care Order	Fostering under Section 20	Special Guardianship Order	Reg 24	Child Arrangements Order	Private Fostering
Parental Responsibility (PR)	At the point the adoption order is made Parental responsibility rests solely with the adopter/s	The Local Authority shares parental responsibility with the parent/s. Foster carers have delegated authority for a range of day to day parenting decisions.	Parental responsibility is held solely by the parent/s The parent/s delegate parental responsibility to the Local Authority to make 'some' day to day parenting decisions on their behalf The scope of these decisions should be agreed in advance with the parent/s	Parental responsibility is shared by the parent/s and Special Guardian/s. Special Guardian/s are able to 'override' the parent/s' parental responsibility The special Guardian/s cannot change the child's name or remove the child from the country for more than 3 months without the consent of everyone with parental responsibility or leave of the Court	See Fostering Interim/Care order and Fostering under s.20	Parental responsibility is shared between the parent/s and those named in the Child Arrangements Order. Neither PR holder can override another unless stated by the court.	Parental responsibility is held solely by the parent/s The parent/s may delegate parental responsibility to the carer to make 'some' day to day parenting decisions on their behalf
Longevity	For the remainder of the child's life, unless a successful application to discharge is made. An adoption order does not end when a child turns 18, the child/adult remains a permanent legal member of his/her new family.	A care order expires on the child's 18 th birthday. An application to discharge the care order may be made at any point before this by the Local Authority, the child's birth parent/s or any other person with parental responsibility	Section 20 is a completely voluntary arrangement and therefore the parent/s can remove the child at any stage	Following the making of the order, the parent/s may apply to vary or discharge the order at any time.	A regulation 24 placement cannot exist for more than a maximum of 24 weeks (16 weeks with an additional 8 week extension) before alternative permanence plans are required	The 'live with' element of a Child Arrangements Order remains legally binding until the child reaches the age of 18, however the Court are very reluctant to enforce such orders beyond the age of 16 unless there are exceptional circumstances.	Until such time as the parent/s would like the child returned to them or have made alternative arrangements for the child's care
Stability	No opportunity for challenge by birth family at any stage once Adoption Order granted.	Fostering placement cannot be assured until child is 18 and may require the child to move to an alternative placement with notice from the foster carers.	Section 20 is a voluntary agreement and the parent/s can demand the child's return at any time.	Following the making of the order, the parent/s may apply to vary or revoke the order To make an application to revoke the order the parent/s must first seek leave of the Court to do so and must evidence a change of circumstances and that it is in the child's best interests.	Dependant on whether the child has a Care Order or is Section 20, as per fostering.	The 'live with' element of a Child Arrangements Order remains legally binding until the child reaches the age of 18, however the Court are very reluctant to enforce such orders beyond the age of 16 unless there are exceptional circumstances. The parent/s may seek to challenge the order	Parents may seek the return of the child at any stage

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Children's Social Care (CSC) intervention	None once adoption order made unless specific support is requested, or Child Protection concerns arise	Regular Child in Care reviews, statutory health & education assessments/plans and visits. Social Worker allocated until 18 years old. Personal Advisor allocated 16 – 25 years old when certain criteria is met	Regular Child in Care reviews, statutory health & education assessments/plans and visits. Social Worker allocated until 18 years old. Personal Advisor allocated 16 – 25 years old when certain criteria is met	Support offered to special guardians and financial and support plans reviewed annually.	See Fostering under Interim/Care Order or Section 20 Kinship Team undertake fostering assessment	Not automatic unless there are concerns about the wellbeing of the child	There will be an allocated social worker There is an advice and duty phone line for advice and support.
Financial Support	Adopter/s may be eligible for an adoption allowance on completion of a financial assessment.	Fostering allowance payable	Fostering allowance payable	The special guardianship allowance is means tested on an annual basis. The allowance cannot substitute any other entitled benefit such as child benefit	Fostering allowance payable	Carers may apply for contributions from birth parents through CSA	Financial support to be arranged between the parent/s and the private foster carer.
Contact / Family Time With parents and siblings	Direct contact is at the sole discretion of the adopter/s once the Adoption Order is granted. The court may order family time arrangements at final hearing. Sibling contact should be informed by a sibling assessment and endorsed by the Court at final hearing and prior to the Adoption Order being made.	Contact recommendations will be set out in the child's interim/care plan, these may be subsequently amended by the Court. When a child is subject to a final care order, any deviation from the contact set out in the child's final care plan will be risk assessed by the Social Worker and must be endorsed by the Independent Review Officer. When considering a significant reduction in parent/s contact following the making of a final care order please seek legal advice	Contact/Family Time is at the parent/s request with assistance/advice provided by the social worker if required	Contact/Family Time agreed at the point of final order. The parents have the right to challenge this at final hearing or subsequently by applying to vary or revoke the order	Dependent on whether the placement is section 20, or Court directed – see relevant sections	Generally specified within the Child Arrangements Order	Contact/Family Time is at the parent/s request