**Placement stability meetings**

It is the responsibility of all Children and Families Service social work staff to recognise and report to their line manager any concerns about placement stability so that a meeting can be convened to address issues as soon as possible. A Placement Stability Meeting will be called when the placement of a child in foster care, residential or a semi-independence placement is considered to be at risk of disrupting.

This could be if:

* Concern is raised through the child’s, foster carer’s or units review process;
* Where an allegation or complaint has been made;
* The child or young person is absconding or being absent from placement on a regular basis;
* Where there is relationship fragility of the placement because the relationship between the child, foster carer or provider gives cause for concern that the placement may breakdown;
* The child or young person has made it known that they want the placement to end;
* The carer(s) / providers have expressed concerns that they are experiencing difficulties or that they feel they can no longer care for the child or young person;
* The child or young person’s social worker or other professionals raise concern that the placement does not meet the needs of the child or young person.

It is the aim of the Fostering and Placements Service, in collaboration with the child’s social work team, to make every effort to prevent the disruption of a placement (when this is assessed to be in the best interests of the child).

Where it appears that a placement is unstable, every effort will be made to resolve the presenting difficulties. This will be in the form of added support with the aim of addressing the issues of concern. In many cases, this will be sufficient to resolve the presenting difficulties, but a placement stability meeting should be held if this isn’t sufficient to make lasting change.

The Fostering Service and Placement Service (when an independent fostering placement, residential unit or semi-independent placement) are responsible for coordinating a placement stability meeting in collaboration with the Childs Social Worker.

The aim of the meeting will be to hear from all parties involved in the placement to increase and share an understanding of the areas of difficulty and try to find ways to reduce the risk of breakdown and to improve the quality of the placement.

The Placement Stability Meeting will usually include the child and young person. Occasionally it might be decided to hold the meeting in two parts to have some discussion between the adults first and then include the child. This will be an exception and the reasons for this need to be documented

Attendees:

* Child / Young Person;
* Child’s social worker;
* Foster carer(s) / key worker / provider;
* Supervising social worker;
* Fostering Manager;
* Other relevant professionals;
* Advocate for the Young person where appropriate

The meeting needs to be chaired by a Team Manager. (Was this the team manager or an independent Team Manager ?) Minutes should be taken by an allocated minute taker and uploaded on PARIS

A review must be booked at the time of the meeting. In some situations it may be that a series of placement stability meetings are held to review progress and take smalls steps to bring about positive and lasting change. There will be times when it may be necessary to facilitate and manage a planned ending of a placement.

**Please note**:

* If it is recommended that if it is envisaged that extra external services (i.e. those with a cost implication) are needed, the child’s social worker needs to present this to the HOS first to seek agreement for funding;

**Stability / disruption flow chart**

Meeting to be chaired by Team Manager and minutes circulated with actions upload and record under stability on PARIS

Social worker to share information with line manager around instability

Other party (child / foster carer / agency) reports instability

An unstable event takes place i.e. complaint or allegation is made etc

Social worker recognises placement instability

If situation is unmanageable stability meeting to be arranged within 7 days

If situation in manageable social worker to offer increase and targeted support (if funding is required to do this agreed by HOS prior to meeting)

And review need for stability meeting to be called if it is felt that this will not suffice

Attendees to be invited (to include child or young person and advocate)

* Childs social worker
* Foster carers / key workers / providers
* Supervising social worker
* Fostering managers
* Other relevant professionals

The aim of the meeting will be to hear from all parties involved in the placement to increase and share an understanding of the areas of difficulty and try to find ways to reduce the risk of breakdown and to improve the quality of the placement. The Placement Stability Meeting will usually include the child and young person.

Occasionally it might be decided to hold the meeting in two parts to have some discussion between the adults first and then include the child. This will be an exception and the reasons for this need to be documented.

**Placement disrupts**

**For placement disruption meetings please see link below** [**https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\_place\_disrup\_meet.html**](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_disrup_meet.html)

Child / young person SW to inform IRO – disruption meeting to be arranged – meeting date set and child’s social worker to invite participants Service Manger to chair

Preparation

* Child / young person’s SW books venue
* Child / young person’s SW prepares child and birth parents as appropriate advocate to be arranged
* Supervising SW prepares previous foster carers /adopters
* Child / young person and previous carers offered opportunity to meet / contact chair prior to meeting
* Previous carers prepare a balanced report for meeting with support of Supervising SW ( to be given to chair 3 days prior to meeting )
* Child / young person to be supported to prepare a statement / report with advocate or SW and provided to chair
* Chair to read reports and prepare for meeting

**Disruption meeting held**

Following meeting

* Minutes written up and distributed within 7 days
* Action plan drawn up with SMART timescales
* Any issues raised and necessary changes made
* Chair sends minutes action plan to permanence panel ( for permanence panel to consider summary action practice and recommendations )
* Record under Placement Disruption Meeting on PARIS

For IRO team to provide a yearly summary of disruption meetings held

Dip Sample of disruption meetings undertaken