

PLACEMENT WITH PARENTS REGULATIONS

LEARNING

“There are four PWP criteria”



What is Placement with Parents - This guidance applies to any placement of a child (for more than 24 hours) on a Care Order or an Interim Care Order, with a parent or person with Parental Responsibility or a person who held a Child Arrangement Order immediately before the Care Order was made.

Criteria 1 Planned Placements

- Consider whether, in all the circumstances and taking into account the services to be provided by the Local Authority, the placement will safeguard and promote the child's welfare and meet his/her needs set out in the Care Plan.
- Assess the suitability of the parents to care for the child, including the suitability of the proposed accommodation and all other members of the household over 18.
- Hold CLA review

Criteria 2 Placement of a Child with Parents before the Assessment has been Completed

- Where the Nominated Officer (HOS) considers it necessary and consistent with the child's welfare, the child may be placed with parents before the Assessment of Parents' Suitability to Care for the Child has been completed, provided that;-
- Arrangements are made for the parents to be interviewed to obtain as much of the assessment information as can be readily ascertained at that interview.
- The assessment and the review of the child's case are completed within 10 working days of the child being placed The decision on placement is made and approved within 10 working days of the assessment being completed; and
 - If the decision is to confirm the placement, the Placement Plan is reviewed (and if appropriate amended);
 - If the decision is not to confirm the placement, the placement is terminated.

Practitioners should also seek to meet with all other members of the household before placing the child. This is particularly relevant to identifying issues such as domestic abuse and substance misuse which may impact on the child's safety

Criteria 3- Immediate Placements

- The Nominated Officer (HoS) can approve an immediate placement without the necessary consultation and checks having been made provided that:
There are exceptional circumstances which justify an immediate placement, and it is consistent with the child's welfare;
There has been an interview with the proposed carer who agrees to the placement;
The accommodation has been inspected; and
Information has been obtained as to the other people in the household.
- The reasons for a decision to place a child on this basis must be fully recorded, signed by the Nominated Officer (HoS) and placed on the child's case record. In these circumstances, the Care Plan should be amended at the time or within a maximum of seven days of the placement.
- A Placement Plan should also be completed prior to the placement, but the Nominated Officer (HoS) may authorise that this be completed up to 7 days after the placement starts.
- The required consultation, assessment and enquiries for planned placements, must then be completed and presented to the Nominated Officer (HoS) within six weeks of the placement .A 'Working Agreement' should be completed by the practitioner with the parents to clarify the expectations of the parent(s) and ensure the child is safeguarded and their needs are met during this temporary phase before the Statutory Review

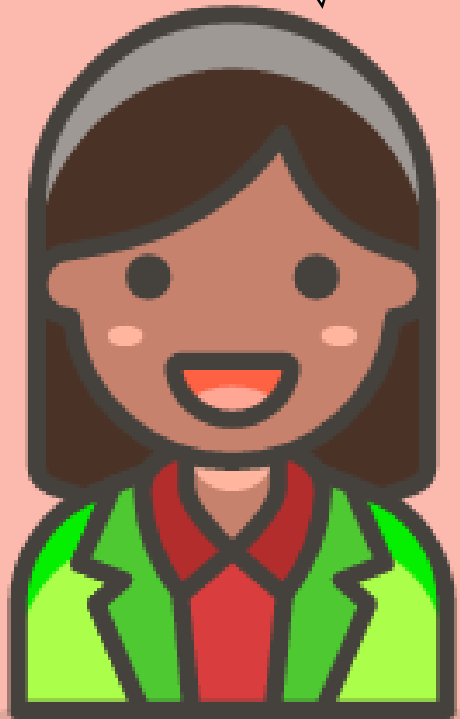
Criteria 4 -Short Term Placements

- Where the relevant plan provide for a series of short term placements of a child with a parent, the requirements as to consultation, enquiries and checks can be carried out once only rather than every time a placement is made, provided that:
- All the placements take place within a twelve months period;
- No single placement is for a period of more than four weeks; and
- The total duration of the placements does not exceed 90 days.
- If a series of short-term placements is part of a longer-term rehabilitation plan, further consultation and approval must be obtained before the rehabilitation plan is extended and/or the child is returned to the parent's full-time care.

APPROVALS ARE ESSENTIAL



“Make sure you have gained the right approval for PWP, these are important decisions for the children”

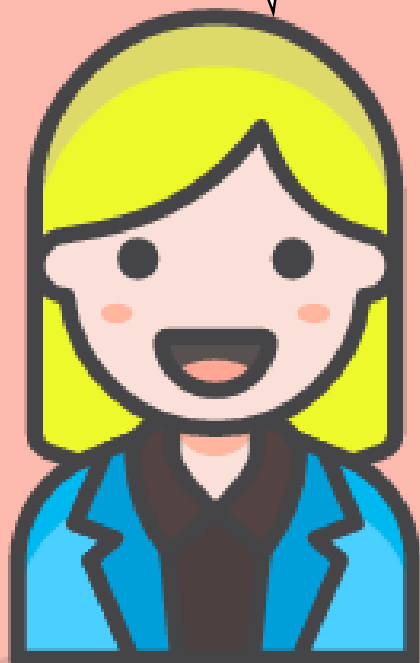


- A decision to place the child with the parents must not be put into effect until it has been approved by the Nominated Officer (Head of Service) and the Placement Plan prepared.
- The Nominated Officer (Head of Service) must be satisfied that:
- The child's wishes and feelings have been ascertained and given due consideration;
- The assessment of parents' suitability to care for the child (see above) has been completed;
- The placement will safeguard and promote the child's welfare;
- The Independent Review Officer has been consulted.

These are the documents that Managers and Independent Reviewing Officers will want to see, to be assured the child/ren are safe and the planning and assessment is robust, to improve their outcomes.

- References/Consultations
- Agreement with parents
- C&F assessment
- HOS sign off/Management oversight
- Care plan/placement plan to reflect.
- Child's voice, wishes and feelings
- CLA review when change/proposed change to the plan.

“Assessments and endings are important, here are our top tips”



Top Tips when assessing

- **Remember this is not a Signs of Safety or Signs of Success assessment. This has to be inclusive of a comprehensive assessment of those with Parental Responsibility, carers and the wider family.**
- **The parents' state of health (physical, emotional and mental), the parents' medical history, including current or past issues of domestic violence, substance misuse or mental health problems;**
- **The state of health (physical, emotional and mental) of other adult members of the household and their medical history, including current or past issues of domestic violence, substance misuse or mental health problems**
- **If in doubt refer to the practice guidance**
- **Ensure the child/ren wishes and feelings are the golden thread through-out the assessment and planning.**

Tops Tips when Ending the PWP

- **Wherever possible the decision to end a placement should be made at a Looked After Review and the ending should take place in a planned way. In Re DE (A Child) [2014], the High Court stated that not less than fourteen days notice of a removal of the child should be given to the parents, save in an emergency.**
- **The Court further stated that any removal of a child in circumstances where the child's welfare does not require immediate removal, or without proper consideration and consultation, is likely to be an unlawful interference with the rights of the parent and child under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In emergencies, the social worker must discuss the case with his/her manager, who will make the decision. Legal advice should always be sought. The Care Order gives the local authority power to enable the child to be removed by the social worker but this power should only be used after obtaining legal advice; the use of other orders (e.g. a Recovery Order) might be appropriate in some circumstances**

The purpose should be to work with the parents and support them, to achieve agreed improvements, with the overall aim of discharge of the Care Order.

The management of the trajectory and plans should be focussed on strengthening and enhancing the parent's role, supporting family relationships and parent-led decision making.

The arrangement should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it continues to be in the child's best interests; and that it is still appropriate and safe for the child to be placed with parents, via a continuous assessment and interventions