**Care Planning Pathways Flowchart**

**Child supported within SAT/Operational/CWDT:**

Required for:

\*Child who is subject to a repeat referral – key questions to include what outcomes were/were not achieved, what does intervention/support need to do differently?

\*Child who is subject to pre-proceedings or proceedings.

\*Child who requires a decision to made in respect of permanency planning i.e. sixteen/seventeen years old subject to section 20.

\*Child who is transitioning to adults services (sixteen and above).

\*Child whose placement stability is at risk.

\*Child whose family placement is at risk.

\*Where consideration needs to be given to escalation to LGP, ie, Child Protection Plan not progressing in line with needs of the child.

\*Child who is being assessed in respect of a prospective Special Guardianship arrangement.

**Please note: a child has the right to a “family led decision making meeting”, whether this is through the mechanism of a Family Group Conference or otherwise, and consideration of a care decision will not be considered when this has not taken place. This must be embedded in practice, as it is the basis for restorative practice and being child led and child focused.**

**Child supported within Cared for/Care Experience/CWDT:**

Required for:

\*Child who is subject to pre-proceedings or proceedings.

\*Child who requires a decision to made in respect of permanency planning i.e. sixteen/seventeen years old subject to section 20.

\*Child whose plan may be one of reunification.

\*Child who has been in a foster placement for a period of eleven months or more.

\*Child whose plan is one of adoption.

\*Child who is transitioning to adults services (sixteen and above).

\*Child whose placement stability is at risk.

\*Child who is being assessed in respect of a prospective Special Guardianship arrangement.

**CARE PLANNING MEETINGS TO BE HELD**

The aim of all care planning meetings is to ensure that planning for permanence is timely and effective for all of our children and to safeguard against drift and delay wherever possible.

**Frequency:** Care planning meetings should take place where a child’s situation is considered to require timely decision making and forward planning. This can include whereby a child’s situation may require escalation to LGM, Child subject to Court proceedings, Child with significant change of circumstance. Care Planning meetings should take place between Cared For Child reviews and Court hearings to inform planning. ***A care planning meeting will always be required at a minimum of three weeks prior to final court hearings and earlier if the hearing is likely to be contested.***

**Membership:** The meetings will be chaired by a Service Manager (unless this relates to a prospective SGO arrangement, in which case the Fostering Assessment Team Manager will chair) within the relevant area of service. Relevant involved professionals should be invited who have a role in achieving permanence, including child’s social worker; Team Manager; Adopt South West; Placements Team; SEN; Fostering team; Building Futures; IYSS; YJS; Family Time Supervisor and if appropriate the IRO. Towards the end of Court proceedings, it may be appropriate for legal representative to be invited.

**Arranging a meeting**: For SATS and Operational / Cared For / CWDT / Care Experienced – book individual appointment with the Service Manager responsible for the service.

**Agenda points to consider:** What is the proposed plan, is this is the right plan for this child, review of Court or PLO timetable, directions and assessments? Are there gaps in evidence. Consider barriers to achieving timely and appropriate permanency plans for children / what action is required to address such barriers? Is there ongoing dispute in respect of the plans. Has FGC taken place – safety nets, exit / permanence plans for the children i.e. DRP / conflicting views of Children’s Guardian. How is this being addressed? Are there any funding issues? Is the permanency planning progressing within the child’s timeframe? Agreed actions.