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| **5.1.5 Placement Planning and Disruption Meetings** | Top of FormBottom of Form |

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**1. Placement Planning Meetings**

Placement Planning meetings should be convened as part of the process of identifying and placing a child - as set out in the [**Placements in Foster Care Procedure**](http://bournemouthcs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_fost_care.html) and the [**Placements in Residential Care Procedure**](http://bournemouthcs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_resi_care.html). The first Placement Planning Meeting in relation to a placement should be held before the placement or, where this is not possible because of the urgency of the situation, within 72 hours of the placement. The people listed below should contribute to the meetings:

1. The child’s social worker and/or other professional associated with the child e.g. [**Personal Adviser**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/personal_adviser.html) (Pathways Support Worker) or advocate;
2. The child;
3. The child’s parents;
4. For children in residential care, the child’s link worker/keyworker and, where appropriate the home manager;
5. Virtual School representative
6. LAC Nurse representative
7. Fohe foster carers and their supervising social worker.

Before any meeting, the chairperson should obtain or be updated on the following, if available:

* The child's Placement Plan (recorded on the Placement Information Record on ICS);
* Any work which has been undertaken in supporting the child’s placement;
* If relevant: the child’s [**Care Plan**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/care_plan.html), [**Personal Education Plan**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/pers_education_plan.html) and [**Pathway Plan**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/pathway_plan.html).

Where the proposed placement has the effect of disrupting the arrangements made for the child's education and training - see [**Education of Looked After Children Procedure**](http://bournemouthcs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_educ_lac.html).

Where the proposed placement is out of area, see [**Out of Area Placements Procedure**](http://bournemouthcs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_out_area_place.html).

The chairperson should also ensure that the child, parent(s) and others who have been asked to contribute understand the purpose of the meeting, how it will be conducted and are given the opportunity to put their views and suggestions.

If there are concerns about the suitability of the placement, consideration should be given to the following:

* Whether it is possible to sustain the placement until the next [**Looked After Review**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/looked_aft_review.html) by, for example, providing additional support to the placement;
* Bringing forward the date of the next Looked After Review;
* Ending the placement.

**2.  Stability Meeting**

Where there are concerns regarding the stability of a placement a stability meeting should be convened.

The purpose of a stability meeting is to take a multi-agency approach to supporting the placement to prevent placement breakdown. A holistic approach should be taken in order to contribute towards ensuring that the carers are supported, and that the chid/young person is safe and that their voice, wishes and feelings are heard.

The Stability Meeting can provide a deeper level of insight into the strengths and limitations of the placement in order to inform decisions that are made in regards to continued support the placement may need or whether if the placement is no longer deemed suitable or appropriate to continue. The Stability Meeting can also feed into an assessment of risks and how they are to be managed.

A support plan will be agreed at the Stability Meeting. The core professionals to support the plan will be identified and agreement will be made as to how often a support plan review meeting will be held.

In House Placements:

Stability Meetings are an extended form of support. As such they are chaired by the Fostering Team Manager.

The people listed below should contribute to the meetings:

1. The child’s social worker and/or other professional associated with the child e.g. [**Personal Adviser**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/personal_adviser.html) (Pathways Support Worker) or advocate;
2. The child;
3. The foster carers and their supervising social worker.
4. Virtual School Representative
5. LAC Nurse Representative

IFA/Residential Placements:

WHO CHAIRS IFA PLACEMENT STABILITY MEETING?

**3.  Disruption Meeting**

Where a placement has ended abruptly or on an unplanned basis, a disruption meeting should be convened.

In House Foster Placements & IFA placements Disruption Meetings would follow the same format.

Disruption Meetings should be held in all cases where a long term placement ends unless part of a pathway plan.

Disruption meetings are Chaired by the IRO Manager.

Those invited, or asked to contribute, should be:

1. The child;
2. The parents;
3. The child's social worker and manager;
4. The link worker/keyworker (for residential care) and home manager;
5. The foster carer(s) and supervising social worker;
6. The child's [**Independent Reviewing Officer**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/indep_reviewing_officer.html);
7. The child's current carers;
8. Other relevant staff/professionals.

The meeting will ensure the child (depending on his or her age and level of understanding) is given the opportunity to understand the reasons for and be supported with managing the transition.

Where appropriate, foster carers must be supported to maintain links with children who leave their care.

The precise agenda will depend on the child/circumstances, but the chairperson should ensure the circumstances leading to the disruption are properly reviewed, and that all concerned are provided with opportunities to express their views freely with a view to establishing:

* How and why the emergency/disruption occurred;
* To learn from what happened and avoid the same thing happening again - for the child or others in the placement;
* To contribute to the future planning for the child;
* To identify work to be done and to ensure it is completed;
* To ensure that appropriate notifications and other post placement arrangements have been undertaken.

The chairperson should keep minutes, which must be circulated to all concerned.

In relation to the disruption of an external residential placement, consideration needs to be given to further use of the resource by the authority.

In relation to the disruption of a foster placement, where the foster carers are in-house approved carers, consideration should be given to holding an early Foster Carer Review to consider the foster carer's approval - see [**Review and Termination of Approval of Foster Carers Procedure**](http://bournemouthcs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_review_fos_care.html).

**End**