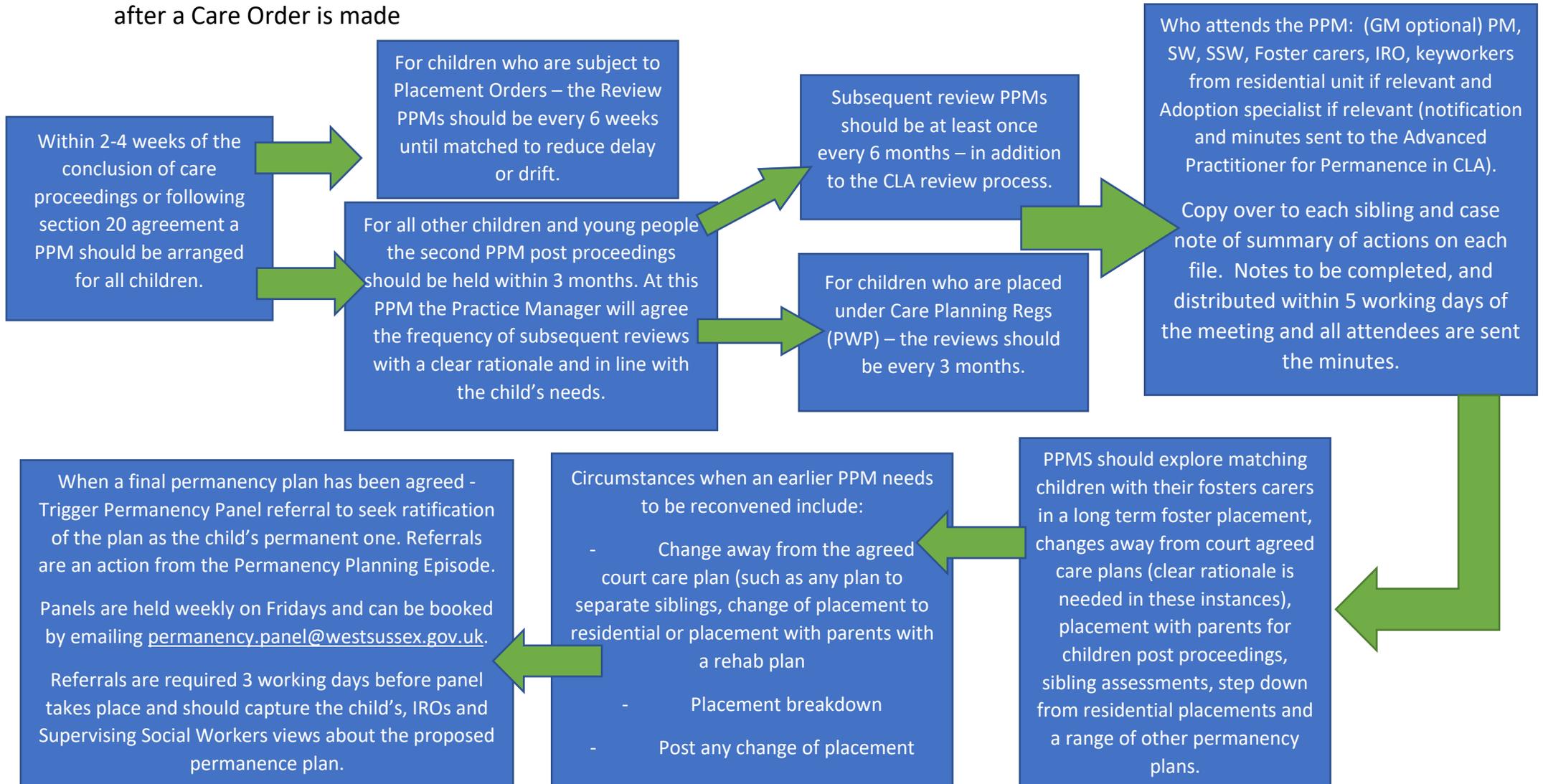


## Aide memoire/Guidelines for permanency planning for children whose care plan is to remain in care POST proceedings or is subject to section 20

A child's permanency plan should be identified by or before their Second CLA review. **Note:** there is no time restriction, if the match is right and the child's long term needs for permanency are achievable then this can be considered as soon after a Care Order is made



Within 2-4 weeks of the conclusion of care proceedings or following section 20 agreement a PPM should be arranged for all children.

For children who are subject to Placement Orders – the Review PPMs should be every 6 weeks until matched to reduce delay or drift.

For all other children and young people the second PPM post proceedings should be held within 3 months. At this PPM the Practice Manager will agree the frequency of subsequent reviews with a clear rationale and in line with the child's needs.

Subsequent review PPMs should be at least once every 6 months – in addition to the CLA review process.

For children who are placed under Care Planning Regs (PWP) – the reviews should be every 3 months.

Who attends the PPM: (GM optional) PM, SW, SSW, Foster carers, IRO, keyworkers from residential unit if relevant and Adoption specialist if relevant (notification and minutes sent to the Advanced Practitioner for Permanence in CLA).

Copy over to each sibling and case note of summary of actions on each file. Notes to be completed, and distributed within 5 working days of the meeting and all attendees are sent the minutes.

When a final permanency plan has been agreed - Trigger Permanency Panel referral to seek ratification of the plan as the child's permanent one. Referrals are an action from the Permanency Planning Episode. Panels are held weekly on Fridays and can be booked by emailing [permanency.panel@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:permanency.panel@westsussex.gov.uk). Referrals are required 3 working days before panel takes place and should capture the child's, IROs and Supervising Social Workers views about the proposed permanence plan.

Circumstances when an earlier PPM needs to be reconvened include:

- Change away from the agreed court care plan (such as any plan to separate siblings, change of placement to residential or placement with parents with a rehab plan
- Placement breakdown
- Post any change of placement

PPMS should explore matching children with their fosters carers in a long term foster placement, changes away from court agreed care plans (clear rationale is needed in these instances), placement with parents for children post proceedings, sibling assessments, step down from residential placements and a range of other permanency plans.

### All PPMs should include:

- Capture everyone's views on the progress towards the child's permanency plan or any changes that are being proposed.
- A clear pen picture of the child, their presenting and likely future needs.
- What it is like to care for the child/ young person, strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Any progress and barriers towards permanency

Where a match between a young person and their foster carers is being sought as long term – the PPM note should capture and ensure:

- Young Person's views and wishes would need to be clear and firmly in agreement with this proposal for remain in the care of their current carers
- Carer need to be committed to offering permanency both now and in the future, which is potentially beyond the age of 18 and having a Staying Put arrangement
- IFA placement the agency SSW views, and support is required
- IRO needs to be in agreement

Narrative/Life Story work must be evidenced on the file and kept updated

### Implications for ratification of long-term foster placements:

If the child's foster family is ratified as permanent the child's coding will be updated and the file updated to reflect this decision. This should be celebrated with the child and their foster family in line with their wishes.

Please note: CLA visits do not necessarily have to be every 6 weeks but be adaptable to meet the needs of each particular child. The minimum visiting pattern is every 12 weeks.