



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Guidance on Permanency Planning Meetings (PPM)

Document Control Information

Title: **Guidance on Permanency Planning Meetings (PPM)**

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Version	Date	Description
Version 1	Jan 2020	Guidance notes on Permanency Planning Meetings. Produced by Jasmine Grimshaw (Service Manager, Corporate Parenting) with input from ATV.
Version 2	Feb 2021	Guidance notes reviewed by Service Manager - no changes required.
Version 3	May 2022	Amendments to PPM attendance criteria.

Guidance on Permanency Planning Meetings (PPMs)

1. Permanency Planning Meetings (PPMs) should be considered according to the circumstances of the case, to consider the most effective route to securing permanency for a child or young person.
2. Permanence options plans are:
 - return home
 - be placed with a relative or other connected persons
 - be placed for adoption
 - placement in residential care
 - long-term fostering
 - planning for independence for young people over the age of 15.5 years when the permanence plan is recorded as the pathway plan.

Parallel planning should be considered to avoid drift and delay if return home no longer becomes an option.

When

3. If it is apparent that a child is likely to need a permanent placement from the onset of a looked after episode, the PPM must be held before the second statutory review. Thereafter the PPM will be held **3-monthly** (prior to the statutory review) which will feed into the care planning until permanency has been achieved. If a child/young person becomes looked after in an emergency basis a PPM will be held within **2 weeks**.
4. If there is no apparent prospect of reunification with the birth family following the first Child in Care Review a PPM should be convened no later than **2 weeks** after the first Review meeting. This will include children where adoption is a strong possibility.
5. Other criteria when a PPM is needed is :
 - Whenever a PPM is needed due to the failure to achieve the Care Plan objectives
 - To address drift, especially when a child is in care under a Section 20 accommodation arrangement.
 - When long term fostering is being considered.
 - Where there are potential risks to the stability of a permanent placement.
 - Where the Adoption, Special Guardianship, or a Child Arrangement Order is necessary or being considered.
 - In cases where a Placement Order has been made, there is a requirement for a further statutory review 3 months and 6 months post-order to consider why the child has not been placed. A PPM should be called before these review points if continuing assessment of the child indicates Adoption may not be viable.
 - When a young person is due to leave care, and before the final Review meeting

PPM attendance

6. The PPM will be chaired by a Service Manager, those invited are:
 - The allocated Social Worker and Team Manager.
 - The Here4you Team Manager.

- IRO
- Family placement Social Worker and Team manager
- A representative from Adopt Thames Valley (if adoption is an option and the child is under 8 years)
- Children's Advocate if required

Documentation

7. The chair should be provided with the last statutory review recommendations, the last care plan and complete the permanency planning template. They will be reviewed **3 monthly** to ensure a high level review of progress in all cases where a permanence plan has been agreed but not yet implemented.

Agenda

8. After the review of the reports and a discussion of the background, legal context etc. takes place - and an understanding of the views and wishes of the child/young person and everyone involved with current contact arrangements is considered - the chair should lead a review of the permanency options and facilitate decisions about the permanence plan. The minutes of the meeting will be recorded on Mosaic. Adopt Thames Valley will also be provided with a copy of the minutes for their records.
9. When a child has a confirmed plan of adoption, which has been signed by the Agency Decision Maker, Adopt Thames Valley will chair any future PPMs.