

Public Law Outline no connected persons being assessed, possible Adoption Track – Birmingham Children’s Trust – Processes and Timelines November 2022.

PLO timeline	Event	Comment on Timescales and Legal Requirements.
Week - 1	<p>All Annex documents to Legal from social worker SW Statement/Chronology/genogram/Care Plan/Pre Proceedings evidence/Assessments including experts./FGC outcome should have been part of CP and Pre Proceedings planning(Social Work) signed off by TM Start viability assessments connected persons if known and has not been completed in pre proceedings (Social Work) Threshold Statement (legal to prepare) Checklist documents finalised Start FPL Portal application (Legal) Where police disclosure required make Annex D request to police in line with local protocol (Legal) Complete Standard Directions on Issue SDO (Legal)</p>	
Day 1	<p>Issue Date Application and Annex documents. Issue on portal after final gatekeeping to consider consistency, urgency and allocation level (Legal) Include SDO (Legal)</p>	
Day 1-2	<p>Application issued/standard directions on issue including allocation. Using agreed local template. LA serves the respondents using process server where parents not represented. Annex document directions Listing CMH by day 12-18 and identify if urgent ICO listing also needed. Child's Birth Certificate filed LA Lawyer LA parenting assessment plan by CMH</p>	<p>Trust Parenting Assessment model to be used for all parenting assessments.</p> <p>Presidents Guidance</p> <p>In the gatekeeping order the parents should be asked to nominate a certain number of family members or close friends to care for the children. Maximum of 3 per parent or 4 per child. They should</p>

	<p>Standard directions on issue in respect of connected persons carers: Before the CMH LA complete family tree with parents if not completed All parties to consult with potential connected/reserve carers and identify them to LA before CMH</p>	<p>be told that only in really exceptional circumstances will they be allowed to nominate anyone else.</p> <p>NB this does not mean that all nominated friends and family will go forward to viability assessment.</p> <p>Nominated persons will be approached by the Social Work team who will carry out a viability assessment where the nominated person is willing to undertake this.</p> <p>If the maximum 4-6 persons wish to care, then the Local Authority will look to agree and viability assess 2 options in agreement with parents’ legal advisers and the Court.</p> <p>Viability assessments will not be completed in accordance with the court timetable if high numbers are ordered.</p>
<p>Day 1-5 ICO hearing (if necessary)</p>	<p>ICO dealt with and further directions given in preparation for the at CMH day 12-18 unless all CMH directions already complied with.</p>	
<p>Day 10-16</p>	<p>Parents do not put forward any connected persons to be assessed. Case continues on track from CMH without connected persons. Parents warned that any connected persons put forward later than this point will not be assessed.</p>	

<p>Day 10-16 (3 days before CMH) Advocates’ meeting</p>	<p>Prior to meeting LA Lawyer give advice and take instructions on future timetable of application.</p> <p>3 days before CMH using standard agreed agenda/minute.</p> <p>Parties’ positions proposed experts and draft questions • Identify any disclosure • Immediately notify the court of the need for a contested ICO hearing</p> <p>Timetable for assessments and timetable to IRH</p> <p>LA Legal prepare Case Summary and CMO is finalised and agreed at meeting.</p>	
<p>Day 12-18 CMH</p>	<p>Case Management Hearing local standard directions</p> <p>Set timetable for the child and timetable for court proceedings to IRH using standard CMO as checklist and <u>following Presidents and Local Guidance on making cases smaller.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying the key issues and identifying the evidence necessary to resolve the key issues - Deciding whether there is a real issue about threshold to be resolved and making threshold directions for any evidence the LA need to file. <p>Approve parenting assessment plan - Max 12 weeks together and apart assessment - 6 - 8 weeks (Max 12 if high complexity)</p> <p>Contact risk assessment - 2 weeks</p> <p>Adoption Medical by Week 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Experts directions and compliance with Part 25 - Giving directions for any concurrent or proposed placement order proceedings 	<p>Parenting Assessment</p> <p>Timescales are set out in Working Together and local practice guidance - taken together a minimum of 9 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks should be allowed depending on complexity and availability of previous assessment.</p> <p>Together and Apart Assessment.</p> <p>Timescales taken from local good practice guidance in care proceedings - to allow 6 to 8 weeks with more time necessary in very complex multiple sibling and parent families up to 12 weeks.</p> <p>Contact Risk assessment</p> <p>Good practice guidance does not contain any timescales. The issues to be explored are set out in Research in Practice guidance. The process should be similar to a viability assessment and take a minimum of 2 weeks.</p> <p>Parent Assess or Pams</p> <p>The Trust view is that the Parent Assess model is gaining ground and is a better model for analytical decision making. Training of</p>

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	Directions for further evidence, hearings and meetings Contact Risk Assessment	Social Workers in groups of 20 is due to commence in September 2022.
Day 13-19 Post CMH Legal and Social Work Tasks	Last date for start of any parenting assessment that needs to be done within proceedings. Together and apart assessments progressed Last date for referral for permanence 12 week process last date for adoption/permanence medical to be booked Start CPR if not already started. CiC meeting to be timed to take place when assessments available	
Day 23	Disclosure of further information and evidence Check for booking of Target adoption ADM date CiC Review Meeting with social work adoption/panel and IRO	
Day 27-34 2 nd Adv meeting if necessary	Preparation for FCMH where necessary. Consider threshold responses if not already dealt with.	
Day 29-36 FCMH where required.	Deal with threshold if necessary. Where applicable first CiC review sets parallel or single-track plan Social work referral for permanence.	
Week 9/10	Adoption medical report available where early referral CPR continued.	
Week 12	Parenting Assessment and Together or apart assessment completed and filed	

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Week 13	<p>Legal and Social Work care planning meeting. Pre Issues Resolution Hearing CiC review sets single track plan Guardian to advise adoption service of view on plan CPR finalised and sent to panel team Legal Advice to panel team with assessments. Panel QA commences (5 days) ADM decision (5 days)</p>	<p>Within the Trust the "Panel Team" makes all of the arrangements for both Fostering Panels and the adoption ADM process. NB there is only one statutory panel required throughout the fostering or adoption placement order process in care proceedings and that is the Fostering Panel under the requirements of Fostering Services Regulations 2011 as amended R25 & R26 Birmingham Children’s Trust does not make any other decisions through any non-statutory "panels"</p>
Week 14	<p>Panel Team sends papers to adoption ADM</p>	<p>Papers should be sent to panel team to progress the adoption track so that an early decision by Adoption ADM decision after fostering panel and fostering ADM decision.</p>
Week 15	<p>Adoption ADM makes decision 5 days from receipt of papers. Social worker TM/HOS complete and QA final statement, care plan, CPR, Application/Statement of Facts completed (Legal)</p>	
Week 16	<p>LA final evidence Placement order application via Portal</p>	
Week 18	<p>Respondents’ final evidence.</p>	
Week 19	<p>CG Final Case Analysis Pre IRH-Advocates Meeting 3 days before IRH Case plan and witness template completed.</p>	
Week 20 IRH	<p>Directions for final hearing if case not concluded.</p>	
Week 21 -26	<p>Final Hearing</p>	

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References:

1. *The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010;*
2. *The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4;*
3. *Fostering Services, Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities;*
4. *The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations, Volume 2: care planning placement and case review July 2021;*
5. *IRO Handbook, statutory guidance for independent reviewing officers and local authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review for looked after children;*
6. *The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 as amended by the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013*
7. *Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards*