

# EARLY PERMANENCE PROJECT



## PRACTICE SURGERIES

### **A brief reminder – What is the MTC Early Permanence Project?**

The Midlands Together Collaboration (MTC) is an established collaboration between 5 Regional Adoption Agencies and 2 Voluntary Adoption Agencies who deliver services in the Midlands region. The MTC have secured funding as part of the National Early Permanence Agenda to improve Early Permanence (EP) practice in the Midlands area, thereby improving opportunities for early placement stability.

The project aims;

- To increase the number of EP placements.
- To improve the quality of EP placement practice.
- To ensure children within each MTC RAA area have equal and timely access to EP placements.
- To ensure that EP carers and placements receive the most appropriate support before, during and after placements.
- To identify areas of potential innovation in EP.

A key aim of the second phase of the project is to embed the MTC EP model and achieve a sustainable long-term increase in EP numbers. As part of this, we will be hosting a 3-month programme of EP practice surgeries with a focus on influencing current practice for all RAA and LA/CT staff across the region to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to integrate and implement the good practice guide.

## WHO ARE THE SURGERIES FOR?

Adoption practitioners and managers (Voluntary Adoption Agencies, Regional Adoption Agencies, Local Authorities, and independent social workers), and any other professionals working with children with a plan for EP.

The surgeries are an opportunity to discuss any aspect of the MTC EP guidance or the regulations in general with a view to embedding the guidance into practice. It is not essential to bring a specific case if a general discussion about practice would be more helpful. Please see below examples of EP themes that we can help you with:

Are you thinking about EP for a child but are not sure that it is the right plan?

Have you placed a child in an EP placement, where further assessments have been requested, and there may be a plan for a child to return home?

Is this your first experience of placing a child for EP, and you just want some advice on the process?

Are you assessing a prospective adopter for EP and would like some advice on what should be included in the assessment?

Are you family finding for a child where EP is the plan, and want some information on the process?

Have you experienced difficulties with legal backing an EP care planning decision or with CAFCASS?

Have you previously placed a child for EP and want to critically reflect on a particular case?

For Social Workers- Reflection on this session can contribute to your continuing professional development (CPD).

## HOW WILL SURGERIES BE HELD?

Surgeries will be held online via Microsoft Teams. They will be 40-minute informal interactive sessions.

### Dates:

**16th June – AM**

**20th June – PM**

**4th July – PM**

**12th July – AM**

**2nd August – AM**

## INFORMATION ABOUT FACILITATORS?

Mark Tobin has worked in local authority and voluntary sector children's services since 1996, with a particular focus on adoption since 2009. He has held two senior RAA roles, was a Midlands RAA leader, and has led the development of Early Permanence practice in the Midlands.

Tara Price has worked in children's services since qualifying in 1997. Her professional background includes social work within a variety of children's services settings, as well as extensive experience as a social worker and manager in adoption. Prior to starting work within the MTC EP project, she was employed as a practice development lead in an RAA with a particular focus on the development of Early Permanence practice.

**To book a slot please contact Tara Price  
Email [tara.price@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tara.price@staffordshire.gov.uk)**

