Background pattern

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**Children’s Social Care**

**Placement and Resource Panel**

**1.****Statement of Purpose and Function**

The Placement and Resource Panel is a forum that oversees, challenges, endorses and reviews the individual needs of BCP Children in Care (CiC) arising from care planning processes and considers the overall financial implications to the Council.

**2.****Objectives**

The Placement and Resource Panel’s role is to ensure that all proposed or existing externally commissioned residential, Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) and semi-independent provision continues to meet the individual needs of CiC whilst ensuring that Best Value principles are adhered to in the care planning process.

The Panel also addresses potential or actual drift in care planning by reviewing such placements and funding arrangements as it deems appropriate.

**3.****Membership**

Core Membership is multi-disciplinary and other members may be co-opted as appropriate. Core membership consists of:

* Director of Corporate Parenting and Permanence
* Head of Children’s Commissioning (Children’s Social Care)
* Finance representative
* Service Manager - Children in Care
* Service Manager – In-House Fostering
* Head Teacher of the Virtual School
* Service Manager for Safeguarding (IRO Service)
* SEND Representative
* Administrative Support
* Responsible Service Managers for individual children’s information being presented

**4. Panel Frequency and Referrals**

The Placement and Resource Panel will take place weekly on a Monday afternoon. All panel reports should be submitted by 1pm on the preceding Friday, unless the resource request arises from an emergency placement.

**5.****Panel Remit**

The Placement and Resource Panel will consider:

* Within one month of being placed, all newly commissioned provision (residential, IFA and semi-independent placements for 16-17 year olds), including consideration of transitions planning at 17 years by way of referring to the Accommodation Planning Panel;
* All retrospective requests for newly commissioned placements made in an emergency;
* Reviewing externally commissioned placements for CiC at a minimum of every 6 months thereafter, to ensure best value for money is being achieved, individual outcomes for CiC are being met as per their Care Plan, and expectations of providers are being met as per the contractual Individual Placement Agreement (IPA);
* All CiC placed in unregistered placements;
* Externally commissioned providers that request additional funding to support the CiC to remain in placement e.g. for a placement to become a ‘solo’ placement, additional staffing ratios, additional therapy, provision of psychological reports, escort arrangements etc;
* Residential, IFAs or semi-independent placements that come to an unplanned end or are at risk of being disrupted **prior to** any alternative placements being secured whenever possible (i.e. at the next available Panel within the contractual notice period being served).
* The appropriateness of referring any placement to the Multi Agency Resource Panel (MARP) for consideration of joint or tri-partite funding between CSC / SEND / Integrated Care System (ICS).

The Panel is not involved in approving [Regulation 24 Placements](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/reg_24_place.html) and the existing BCP approval process will remain in place for these children.

**6.****Panel Process**

The allocated social worker completes a short referral form, approved by the relevant team manager and service manager, by 1pm on the Friday preceding the panel. The social worker is invited to panel to present the case, supported by their team manager where necessary. The service manager attends for all children under their responsibility. The Head of Children’s Commissioning provides a detailed breakdown of placement costs to inform Panel decision making.

The Panel considers:

* Whether a more co-ordinated multi-agency approach could forestall the need for the provision requested;
* Whether the resource request best meets the identified needs and outcomes for the CiC;
* Whether a time limit should be placed on any enhanced provision and the frequency with which that provision should be reviewed;
* Whether any drift in care planning implementation is delaying a positive outcome for the CiC and is preventing a more cost-effective provision being identified/secured;
* Whether a referral should be made for consideration of joint or tri party funding via the MARP process;
* Whether a referral should be made to the Accommodation Planning Panel for CiC over 17 years old.

The specific actions identified for each CiC placement reviewed are made available within three working days and will be recorded on the child’s MOSAIC record by the panel administrator.

**7.****Approval Process**

Only following a full discussion at Placement and Resource Panel and within the parameters of the Panel decision will the Commissioning team be instructed to proceed to identify a range of placement options. These options shall be identified based on a referral, risk assessment and child profile, which are required by the commissioned market to identify suitable provision.

There will, however, be scope to commission emergency provision so long as the relevant service manager / director approval has been secured, following the Scheme of Delegation. All such emergency placements must be submitted to the subsequent Placement and Resource Panel for retrospective discussions when alternative placement options can be considered if required.

A planned Court date for an application for an [ICO](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/interim_care_order.html) or similar Order does not constitute such an emergency as the child’s social worker should make the referral to the Placement and Resource Panel at the same time as they make the referral to the Legal Gateway Meeting which can be cancelled should the placement not be required.

Thus emergency placement decisions should ordinarily only be made in circumstances where a child is made subject of an [EPO](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/emerge_prot_order.html) or Police Powers of Protection, where there is no option but to accommodate a child under section 20 in an emergency, or where the child’s/carer’s circumstances are so significant that an emergency disruption was unavoidable.