### 

# Reunification Assessment

# In relation to:

# Child/YP Name

# DOB

## Being placed with:

# Name of Parent(s) with PR

## Completed by:

Name

Role

Date

**Introduction and purpose of the report**

The assessment uses an evidence-informed framework for analysing and classifying the risk of

re-abuse or continuing maltreatment to inform decision-making with regard to reunification.

The Framework seeks to ensure that children and young people’s best interests are central to all decision-making. Children should only be returned home when the classification is considered to be ‘Low Risk’ or ‘Medium Risk’.

Where the classification is ‘High Risk’, concurrent planning for possible permanent separation may be desirable, especially with young children.

Where the classification is ‘Severe Risk’, reunification should not be considered.

This assessment does not serve the interest of the local authority or the parent but rather

the child, [name …], and his or her best interests and his or her right to have a safe, nurturing

environment in which to develop.

**Assessment process**

The Reunification Practice Framework requires the assessment of the parent(s)’ capacity to

change and their ability to sustain that change over time as this is a critical part of decision

making and planning for reunification.

This assessment is also informed by the information gathered in the chronology and genogram.

### Findings

**Section One: Summary of data**

**1.1 Summary of risk factors and reasons for entry into care/accommodation**

(*Including reference to parental alcohol/drug misuse, domestic violence, and mental ill health*)

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| Summarise Family history include reasons for separation  *List each factor for removal – Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Neglect and explain what each of those meant in regards to impact for the children.*  *If separation was granted in court, did the court order/recommend any interventions for family/child and have these been completed/fulfilled.* |

**1.2 Length of time the child/young person has been Looked After and number of placements. Summary of any significant events since entry into care/accommodation impacting on factors that may lead to a reunification home.**

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| *CLA progress, placement progress*  *Number of episodes of care* |

**1.3 Evidence of parental capacity to change and views on capacity to change in time to meet child’s needs.**

(*Attendance, attitude and motivation in relation to taking part in the assessment. Whether the problems that initially resulted in the child coming into care are acknowledged and are being addressed and whether the parents/carers acknowledge and are ready and able to address any remaining or new risk factors. Whether they are likely to be able to make the necessary changes within the child’s timescale taking account of the child’s age and developmental needs. Previous attempts at return to birth parent/s – why did these not meet the needs of the child/young person?).*

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| *List the risks/reasons for separation identified in part 1 and explain how progress has been made, this cannot be just self-reported and must be backed up with evidence, our observations in addition to the views of professionals.*  *We can also put here any gaps which continue to need support around.* |

**1.4 Outcome of police checks on adults living in the household and agency checks on everyone in the household**

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| *This is on the parent’s home to which the children are being planned to return to – who lives there, who will the children have regular contact with and agency checks with police and other local authority’s if needed* |

**1.5 Child’s strengths and vulnerabilities**

(*Considering health, education, emotional and behavioural development, identity, family and social relationships, social presentation and self care skills).*

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| *Health, education, family (contact time too), identity, social presentation, self-care – How are these needs now being met in care, how would these needs be met by their family and are there gaps in support provided by the family, which need interventions around to successfully reunify.* |

**1.6 The child/young person’s level of attachment to the birth parent/s, including regularity and quality of contact between birth parents and child/young person whilst Looked After)**

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| *How has family time progressed since being in care?* |

**1.7 The child/young person’s relationship with and attachment to the current caregivers.**

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| *Child’s relationship to current carers and what would the impact on reunification be with them and what would contact with their carers look like should they be returned home.* |

**1.8 The impact of the wider family and environment of the home and community at this time, both in terms of protective and risk factors**

*(Please comment on the home environment and impact this would have on the child returning to live there, community resources, wider family support and the impact if a school change might be required)*:

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| Finance, employment, housing, community resources – What is the current situation, is it working, what would reunification mean for the family in these areas and what support is needed in these areas to support reunification.  ***Consider the Preparation for Return - Checklist***  *Is funding needed for any equipment to ensure the home environment is ready and safe*  *Contact arrangements – what support is needed with increased contact*  *Respite plan  - has a FGC been held to formalise arrangements – contact Crispin George for a review FGC*  *Finances (arrangements to apply for benefits, debt management, any assistance needed with one off purchases for equipment)*  *Transport arrangements*  *Health appointments*  *Housing situation – have longer term plans been explored*  *Arrangements for clubs/hobbies/activities/keeping in contact with friends*  *Safety – are there any immediate risk/hazards that need addressing* |

**1.9 View/feelings of significant adults, including current caregivers, IRO and schools, about the child/young person returning to the care of their birth parent/s.**

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| Parents  Foster carers  Supervision social worker  IRO  School  Any other relevant professional to the child and family |

**1.10 Child’s understanding of why they are Looked After and views on a return home**

(*Awareness of changes that have taken place in the birth family whilst in care/accommodation, understanding of what life would be like should they return home, which relationships are important to the child/young person and child’s view of parent’s new partner (if applicable*)).

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| *Please attach copies of any direct tools used to obtain views e.g. Three Islands, Three Houses* |

### Analysis of Risk

**Section Two: Analysing data and classification of risk for reunification**

**2.1 Analysis of risk and protective factors stating why future harm is likely or less likely**

(*Professional analysis of each individual child/young person’s best interests in relation to reunification, balancing individual attributes, risk and protective factors, experiences and expressed wishes and feelings as assessed above*)

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| Use Risk and Protective Factors tool [NSPCC RPF Tools – Definitions of risk and protective factors](https://orbispartnerships.sharepoint.com/sites/north_west_childrens_services/nw_lac_documents/Reunification%20Team/Reunification%20Training/NSPCC%20RPF%20Tools%20–%20Definitions%20of%20risk%20and%20protective%20factors.pdf)  S*ummary of why child/young person was placed in care, what work has parent done, where parent is now and how long have changes been maintained/tested, where children are now and what your assessment/analysis is on whether it is safe for the children to return. If not, why not, if it is, are there gaps that the family needs support on*  *Split each risk/reason for separation and respond accordingly.* |

**2.2 Summary of changes that would need to be made for reunification to occur and indication of timescales.**

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| *These are the gaps that have been identified in the analysis and what needs to be resolved to support reunification, could be bullet points with timescales* |

**2.3 Classification of risk for reunification of each child: Severe/High/Medium/Low**

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| Use risk classification traffic light tool [Risk Classification Table](https://orbispartnerships.sharepoint.com/sites/north_west_childrens_services/nw_lac_documents/Reunification%20Team/Assessments/Risk%20Classification%20Table.docx)  List each risk/reason for separation and categorised – low would be imminent return, medium – return if further work is positive, high/severe would be no return unless significant changes (as follows) are made.  A final summary category is needed if there are numerous risks. |

### Decision Making

**Section Three: Decision-making, planning and monitoring**

***Not required for requests for children to have contact over 24 hours rather than a return home or a sudden unexpected return home.***

**3.1 Decision on reunification (including legal or protective actions required).**

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| *Overall outcome* |

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| 1. If reunification is not possible: Summary of the next steps *(eg matching child long term with current carers/ review of contact/ support to be provided to the family to then reassess in xx months/ years time)* |

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| 1. If reunification is possible:  * *Detail transition plan/increases in contact needed* * *Next steps needed* * *Plan of work needed by Reunification Support Service* * *Funding requests needed – continuation of pupil premium/therapy if being used etc* |

### Parental Agreements

**Section Four: Parental agreements and Reunification/Safe contact over 24 hours plan**

**4.1** **What do parents need to achieve to enable reunification?**

*(These need to be SMART goals –What services, interventions or support are required to facilitate reunification? What are the timescales for goals to have been achieved? What are the consequences if goals are not achieved? How will progress in achieving the goals be monitored? By whom? How often?)*

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| *List how the above in 3.1b will be achieved, timescales and consequences.* |

### Signatures

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**Name of Social Worker**

Date:

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**Name of Service Manager**

Date:

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|  |

**Name of Assistant Director**

Date:

Document last reviewed: October 2023

Last reviewed by: Natasha Gunner

Next review date: October 2024