



Practice Guidance on Children We Care for Review arrangements in Permanency



Introduction

The aim of this practice guidance is to assist in determining when it is appropriate to modify the current review arrangements where it is identified and agreed appropriate for a child living in a permanent home.

Regulations

Paragraph 4.17 of The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations - Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (2015) sets out that where a child is placed in a designated long-term foster placement and has been in this placement for more than a year consideration should be given to whether it is necessary to hold a meeting as part of each review.

The guidance requires that the social worker should consult the Child Reviewing Officer (CRO) and the child (where appropriate to age and understanding) in reaching a decision on whether to hold a meeting. Where it is agreed that a meeting will not be held as part of every review, a meeting should be held at least once a year. The factors leading to a decision to hold review meetings on a less frequent basis must be recorded in the child's care plan.

Where a decision is taken that the review process will not include a meeting, the CRO must ensure that full consultation with all relevant individuals, including the child, has taken place to inform the review of the child's case.

Applying the regulations in practice

For all children we care for in permanent placements, a child we care for review is required six monthly. For some children whilst a six-monthly review will take place, a review **meeting** with the child will only take place annually as this is considered to be in their best interest. The children this will apply to are children who have had their permanent homes agreed at permanency panel and have been living there for over 12 months. This will not automatically apply to all children who are placed for permanency and living in these homes for over 12 months and will require individual consideration and agreement between the CRO, social worker, CWCF Team manager, CWCF Service Manager and CRO manager.

When will this apply?

- Child's home has been approved as their permanent home, i.e. foster care/ kinship care at permanency panel
- They have been living in their permanent home for over 12 months
- They are settled

-The child wishes to only attend one of their children we care for review meetings a year with due consideration to age and understanding

This list is not exhaustive, and it is essential to consider other potential factors relevant to the individual child.

How to apply?

-Between each six-month statutory review, there is a midway review (oversight on care plan) by the CRO with the social worker. This is when the CRO will give due consideration to the above criteria in consultation with the social worker, child, and managers.

- Where this arrangement has been agreed this will mean for every 12 months there will be:

- One face to face child we care for statutory review meeting,
- The other six-monthly statutory review in the year will include as a minimum the Child's allocated social worker and CRO. It should also include input from the child, other relevant professionals, and the child's carer,
- At future midway reviews (oversight on care plan), these arrangements will be revisited in conjunction with the child's care plan to ensure it is still meeting the best interest of the child.

How will this arrangement be recorded?

-This will be recorded in the Midway review case note on mosaic.

-The child's care plan will stipulate this current arrangement and rationale.

-The CRO's review letter to the child will state the format of the review and rationale why there was not a face-to-face meeting.

Review / Contacts / References	
Document title:	Practice Guidance on Children We Care for Review arrangements in Permanency
Date approved:	13/03/24
Approving body:	Policy & Practice Group
Next review date:	March 2025
Document owner:	Beverley Berry