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|  Background pattern  Description automatically generated with medium confidence **Reunification Assessment**  |   |
| This assessment tool is designed to build upon the initial information gathered and analysed in the Reunification Identification Tool. The Reunification Assessment is completed to make a recommendation whether a child should be reunified home from Care. Reunification could be to a birth parent, other adult with parental responsibility, or another relative.If the Reunification Assessment recommends the child should return home and this is agreed by your Team Manager and the change of Care Plan is endorsed at a Child Looked After Review, you can make a referral for reunification support. You can read more about this process in the Reunification Pathway and Flowchart. |
| **Child’s name / sibling group and Mosaic ID (provide details for all siblings being considered for reunification)** |  |
| **Child’s age** |    |
| **Child’s legal status** |  |
| **Length of time in Care** |  |
| **Duration of current placement** |  |
| **Current placement type** |  |
|  **SECTION 1 – CHILD’S / YOUNG PERSON’S NEEDS** |
| **Pen picture of the child / young person** |
| *Include information about the child’s personality, likes / dislikes, interests and ambitions, their strengths and vulnerabilities* |
| **Family composition** |
|  |
| **Child’s health needs including disability** |
|  |
| **Child’s education needs** |
| *Consider the child’s attendance and attainment, special educational needs including emotional / behavioural needs in school, how these are supported and the impact of this support**Consider location of educational setting and how travel / distance will be managed to avoid disruption, or if a change in educational setting is necessary, what factors need to be considered – this is particularly important for young people in or approaching Years 10-13* |
| **Child’s emotional wellbeing and mental health** |
|  |
| **Child’s self-care and life skills** |
|  |
| **Extra-familial harm** |
|  |
| **Child’s relationship with birth parents / other prospective carers** |
| *What is the frequency and quality of family time and indirect contact the child has, with their parents or other prospective carers? Is there any observable impact on the child’s emotional wellbeing (positive or negative) following family time or indirect contact?**Can the frequency and duration of family time and indirect contact reasonably be increased as part of a pre-reunification plan? What factors need to be taken into account and how will these be managed?* |
| **Child’s relationship with current carers and their family** |
| *What is the quality of the relationship the child has with their current carers, and the carers’ family? How will these relationships be impact by the child returning home, and how can this best be managed? What meaningful relationships has the child lost in the past and how did this impact on them?* |
| **Child’s other relationships and interests** |
| *Which relationships are important to the child – family, friends, pets, or others and what time do they spend together? What activities does the child enjoy doing and with who? How does the child present socially? How will these relationships be impacted by the child returning home?* |
| **Care history** |
| *Briefly set out the child’s journey through Care including length of time in Care, number and type of placements, particularly focussing on the child’s needs, the degree to which placements were able to meet these needs, and the reasons for any disruption to previous placements, including any other significant incidents or events which may impact on successful reunification.* |
| **Current placement** |
| *What is the quality of the child’s current placement and carers’ ability to meet the child’s needs? Have there been any significant issues? Is the child’s current placement sufficiently stable to support reunification? What are the child’s routines and level of independence in their current placement and how might this need to be considered in the reunification plan?* |
| **SECTION 2 - PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REASONS FOR THE CHILD BEING IN CARE** |
| *Who would the child be returning home to, and do they have parental responsibility? Are they a birth parent to the child? Who else has Parental Responsibility for the child?**What were the primary reasons for the child entering Care? Do these risks relate to the person the child would be returning to? Have attempted previously been made to return the child to this parent / carer and why was it unsuccessful?* |
| **SECTION 3 – STATUTORY CHECKS****Section 22 Children Act 1989 and Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (2010) Regulations 15-20 require the local authority to assess the suitability of the child’s parent to care for the child, and any other person aged over 18 living in the family home where the child will be placed****Please complete the statutory checks consent form for each relevant adult living in the household or any other adult with whom the child will spend regular time (eg a non-resident partner of the parent / carer)****NB whilst these checks are statutorily required for children subject of interim / Care Orders, they should also be undertaken when assessing children accommodation under section 20 when the local authority is considering a plan of reunification** |
| **Date police checks completed** |
| *Confirm the date of police checks and which adults the police checks relate to* |
| **Outcome of police checks** |
| *Specify detailed information gained from police checks relevant to safeguarding and promoting the child’s welfare, including which adult the information relates to* |
| **Outcome of other agency checks (eg Probation, GP, Mental Health services, Substance Misuse services) or other local authority Children’s Services** |
| *Specify detailed information gained from other agency checks relevant to safeguarding and promoting the child’s welfare, including which adult the information relates to* |
| **SECTION 4 - PARENTING HISTORY (complete this section in relation to the parent(s) or other care givers the child would be returning to)** |
| **Previous Assessments** |
| *What assessments relevant to parenting capacity were completed prior to / when the child came into Care and what conclusions were reached in relation to past parenting strengths, risks and concerns?* |
| **Additional Learning and Support Needs** |
| *Does this parent / carer have additional learning / support needs that should be considered in this assessment and plan of support?* |
| **Engagement with and Impact of Support** |
| *What services and support were offered / put in place following previous assessments, and what was their outcome? How well did the parent / carer engage in previous support?* |
| **SECTION 5 – CURRENT PARENTING CAPACITY (basic care, ensuring safety, emotional warmth, stimulation, guidance and boundaries, stability)****Refer to the detailed guidance at Appendix One which sets out the requirements for the assessment when considering placing a looked after child with parents** |
| **Understanding of Concerns and Impact on the Child** |
| *What is the parents’ / carers’ understanding now of the impact their / others’ parenting had upon their child in the past, and how this may continue to impact on their child now? If the risks relate to another family member, what is their capacity to protect the child from harm?* |
| **Understanding of Child’s Needs and Ability to Meet those Needs** |
| *To what degree does the parent / carer understand the child’s current and future needs and what is their capacity to meet those needs?* |
| **Current Factors Impacting upon Parenting Capacity** |
| *Consider the risks and impacts of any current factors impacting on parenting capacity – including physical, emotional and mental health, relevant medical history, current or past issues of domestic abuse or substance misuse* |
| **Evidence of Change, Parenting Strengths and Sustainability** |
| *Has the parent / carer been able to make changes to improve their parenting? Have they been able to sustain these changes, and what has enabled them to do this? What strengths are evident? Have there been periods of time when they have not been able to sustain these changes, and what were the contributing factors at that time?* |
| **Additional Support to Achieve Reunification** |
| *What additional support does the parent / carer need for the child to be able to safely return home, and successfully remain living at home? To what degree are they able, and likely to, engage with support? Are they able to access community resources, or how might they need support to do this? To what degree are they able to make necessary changes within the child’s timescales? If support is offered and engaged with, will risk be sufficiently reduced for the child to return home?* |
| **Support Network and Family Relationships** |
| *What is the quality of the parents’ / carers’ support network? What is the quality of relationships within the child’s wider family? Who within the family’s support network is likely to be able to support a reunification plan and how can they help? What support and resources are available within the local community and the parent’s / carer’s capacity to access and engage in community support and resources?* |
| **Caring Responsibilities** |
| *Does the parent / carer have responsibilities for any other children or vulnerable adults, within or outside of the household? How will this impact on their capacity to care for the child returning home?* |
| **Other Adults Living or Spending Regular Time in the Household** |
| *Are there any other adults (including adult siblings) in the household and are there any risks associated with them? If so, what is the parent’s / carer’s ability to manage those risks and how can these risks be reduced?**Is the parent / carer in a relationship with someone who lives outside of the family home? How much time do they spend at the family home?* |
| **Housing** |
| *Does the parent / carer have sufficient housing for the child to return home? What is the standard of home conditions? Would the child have their own bedroom and if not, what would the sleeping arrangements be and the potential impact of this on the child and other children in the household? What support might they need to address housing needs?*  |
| **Income, Debts and Employment** |
| *Does the parent / carer have sufficient income for the child to return home? What support might they need to address their income / expenditure / debts? If the parent / carer is in employment, how will they manage their working hours / pattern alongside their caring responsibilities?* |
| **SECTION 6 - VIEWS OF SIGNIFICANT PARTIES** |
| **What are the child’s views and wishes about reunification?** |
| *Include details of any direct work undertaken to learn about the child’s views and wishes.* |
| **What are the birth parents’ views and wishes about the child being reunified home?** |
|  |
| **What are the views of other prospective carers, if the child is not returning to a birth parent?** |
|  |
| **What are the views and wishes of any siblings who are in the household / in Care / live elsewhere? What is the likely impact on them if the child is reunified home?** |
|  |
| **What are the views of significant others in the family household / child’s network about the child being reunified home?** |
|  |
| **What are the views of the child’s current carers about the child being reunified? Are they likely to support a reunification plan?** |
|  |
| **Confirm discussion has taken place with the Virtual School and their views?** |
|  |
| **What are the views of any professionals who have a significant working relationship with the child or parent / carer?** |
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| **SECTION 7 - ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION** |
|  |
| **SECTION 8 - OUTLINE PLAN** |
| *Set out an outline plan of services, interventions and direct work that would best support a safe and successful reunification, including indicative timescales and which agency / role is responsible for each aspect of the plan.* |
| **Social Worker Name and Team** |  |
| **Date** |  |
| **TEAM MANAGER DECISION** |
|  |
| **Team Manager Name and Team** |  |
| **Date** |  |
| **SECTION 9 - OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK *(complete this section if the recommendation is to progress a plan of reunification)*** |
| **For all criteria below state the Level of Need (1-4) at the point of reunification assessment – progress will be reviewed during the progress of the reunification plan** | **Confirm Level 1-4** |
| **CRITERIA 1** EDUCATION   | A child who is persistently absent from school.  Less than 90% attendance over last 2 consecutive school terms  | ​​ |
| A child who has less than 50% attendance unauthorised and authorised and authorised for 2 consecutive terms.  |  |
| A child who is not participating/engaging with education and at risk of NEET.  |  |
| Child’s special educational needs not being met  |  |
| **CRITERIA 2** GOOD EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT  | Expectant or new parent/carers who require additional or specialist support (e.g., young parents, parents who have been in care, parents with learning needs)  |  |
| Child’s (0-5 yrs) physical health needs not met (e.g., immunisations not up to date, concerning accidental injuries, dental hygiene)  |  |
| Child’s (0-5 yrs) developmental needs not being met (e.g. communication skills/speech and language, problem-solving, school readiness, personal social and emotional development)  |  |
| **CRITERIA 3** IMPROVED MENTAL AND PHYSCIAL HEALTH | Child needs support with their mental health  |  |
| Adult needs support with their mental health  |  |
| Child and/or parent/carer require support with physical health needs that affect the family (e.g., long-standing health conditions requiring management, physical disabilities requiring adaptations)  |  |
| **CRITERIA 4** PROMOTING RECOVERY & REDUCING HARM FROM SUBSTANCE MISUSE  | An adult has a drug and/or alcohol problem |  |
| A child or young person has a drug and/or alcohol problem  |  |
| **CRITERIA 5** IMPROVED FAMILY RELATIONSHIP  | Parent/carer requires parenting support  |  |
| Harmful levels of parental conflict i.e. when it is frequent, intense or poorly resolved  |  |
| Child / young person violent or abusive in the home (to parents/carers or siblings)  |  |
| Unsupported young carer or caring circumstances changed requiring additional support  |  |
| **CRITERIA 6** CHILDREN SAFE FROM ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION  | Emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect, historic or current, within the household  |  |
| Child going missing from home  |  |
| Child identified as at risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation  |  |
| Child identified as at risk of, or experiencing, criminal, or pre-criminal, exploitation (e.g., county lines)  |  |
| Child identified as at risk of, or being affected by, radicalisation  |  |
| Child experiencing harm outside of the family (e.g., peer to peer abuse, bullying, online harassment, sexual harassment/offences)  |  |
| **CRITERIA 7** CRIME PREVENTION AND TACKLING CRIME  | Adult (18+) involved in crime and/or ASB (at least one offence/arrest/named suspect report/ASB incident) in the last 12 months  |  |
| Young person (u18) at risk of crime – including gangs, serious violence and weapons carrying, or involved in harmful risk-taking behaviour  |  |
| Young person (u18) at risk of crime – including gangs, serious violence and weapons carrying, or involved in harmful risk-taking behaviour  |  |
| **CRITERIA 8** SAFE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE  | Family affected by domestic abuse or inter-personal violence and abuse - historic, recent, current or at risk (victim)  |  |
| Adult in the family is a perpetrator of domestic abuse  |  |
| Child currently or historically affected by domestic abuse  |  |
| **CRITERIA 9** SECURE HOUSING  | Families who are in local authority temporary accommodation and are at risk of losing this  |  |
| Families not in suitable, sustainable housing and/or threatened with eviction /at risk of homelessness  |  |
| young people aged 16/17 at risk of, or who have been, excluded from the family home  |  |
| **CRITERIA 10** FINANCIAL STABILITY  | Adult in the family is workless  |  |
| Family require support with their finances and / or have unmanageable debt (e.g., rent arrears)  |  |
| Young person is NEET  |  |

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| **APPENDIX ONE: SCHEDULE 3 (CARE PLANNING, PLACEMENT AND REVIEW (2010) REGULATIONS: REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT WHEN PLACING A CHILD WITH PARENTS** |

Matters to be taken into account when assessing the suitability of P to care for C

**1.**  In respect of P—

(a)P's capacity to care for children and in particular in relation to C to—

(i)provide for C's physical needs and appropriate medical and dental care,

(ii)protect C adequately from harm or danger, including from any person who presents a risk of harm to C,

(iii)ensure that the home environment is safe for C,

(iv)ensure that C's emotional needs are met and C is provided with a positive sense of self, including any particular needs arising from C's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background, and any disability C may have,

(v)promote C's learning and intellectual development through encouragement, cognitive stimulation and the promotion of educational success and social opportunities,

(vi)enable C to regulate C's emotions and behaviour, including by modelling appropriate behaviour and interactions with others, and

(vii)provide a stable family environment to enable C to develop and maintain secure attachments to P and other persons who provide care for C,

(b)P's state of health including P's physical, emotional and mental health and medical history including any current or past issues of domestic violence, substance misuse or mental health problems,

(c)P's family relationships and the composition of P's household, including particulars of—

(i)the identity of all other members of the household, including their age and the nature of their relationship with P and with each other, including any sexual relationship,

(ii)any relationship with any person who is a parent of C,

(iii)other adults not being members of the household who are likely to have regular contact with C, and

(iv)any current or previous domestic violence between members of the household, including P,

(d)P's family history, including—

(i)particulars of P's childhood and upbringing including the strengths and difficulties of P's parents or other persons who cared for P,

(ii)P's relationships with P's parents and siblings, and their relationships with each other,

(iii)P's educational achievement and any specific learning difficulty or disability,

(iv)a chronology of significant life events, and

(v)particulars of other relatives and their relationships with C and P,

(e)particulars of any criminal offences of which P has been convicted or in respect of which P has been cautioned,

(f)P's past and present employment and other sources of income, and

(g)the nature of the neighbourhood in which P's home is situated and resources available in the community to support C and P.

**2.**  In respect of members of P's household aged 18 and over, so far as is practicable, all the particulars specified in paragraph 1 except sub-paragraphs (d), (f) and (g).