

BARNET PERMANENCY PLANNING PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aims

Barnet's Permanency Planning Panel is a senior leadership decision making panel formed to ensure that those children facing the potential or immediate need for protection, outside of the care of a parent or legal guardian, are well supported and planned for. The Panel comprises senior managers from the Local Authority's statutory social work service as well key leaders from Education, Health, Youth Offending and Legal Services.

The panel provides a forum for agencies to:

- Work collaboratively to mobilise the right support for children, to avoid unnecessary statutory intervention in families;
- Ensure that planning for children who enter care is proportionate, effective and focused on their best interests;
- Provide challenge and support to secure outcomes for children in timely, effective and creative ways;
- Establish and promote a culture of joint accountability for decision making in relation to children looked after; and
- Ensure outcome focussed decision making in line with Barnet's resilience based ambitions for children.

Panel Membership

The Permanency Planning Panel is chaired by the Operational Director, Family Services and deputised by a Head of Service.

Panel attendance is case dependent but the core group of members consists of the following representatives:

- Operational Director Family Services (Chair)
- Head of Corporate Parenting & Permanence
- Head of Placements and Disabilities
- Head of Intervention & Planning
- Head of Duty & Assessment
- Team Manager, Placements Service
- Head of Virtual School
- Permanence Assurance Lead
- Senior Legal Adviser

The following members will receive an agenda weekly in advance of the panel and will attend where appropriate:

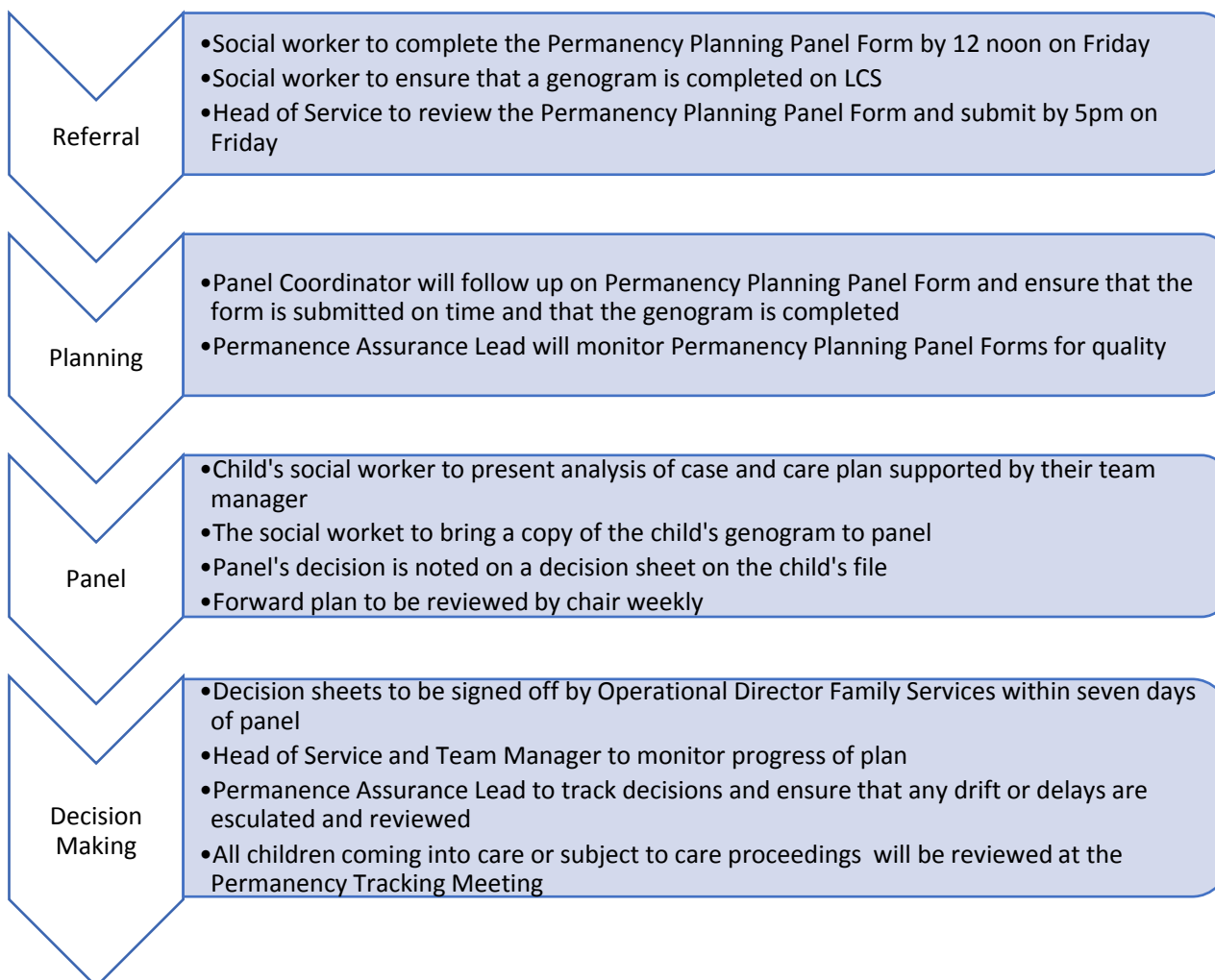
- Head of Continuing Healthcare & Neuroscience Lead (CCG)
- YOT manager

Panel Remit

The Panel considers cases under the following categories:

1. Cases where a child is at risk of coming into care or has become looked after following a Head of Service decision made outside of panel. Children coming into care need to be presented at the Permanency Planning Panel as a part of the BLA process. When coming into care between a Wednesday and the following Tuesday (5.00pm), the case will need to be presented at the panel on a Tuesday thereafter.
2. Cases where a child is at risk of coming into care;
 - Children for whom pre-proceedings under the Public Law Outline is a consideration
 - Children for whom care proceedings is a consideration
 - Children remanded into custody (LASPO section 23)
3. Cases requested by the panel for review which will include;
 - Children subject to pre-proceedings process will be reviewed every 8 weeks
 - Children where care proceedings has been agreed will be tracked and will be reviewed by panel if there is a delay in application being made
 - Children and young people in residential and semi-independent placements longer than 12 months
 - Cases identified by the Permanence Assurance Lead or Head of Service for scrutiny in relation to the care plan

Process



Escalation process

Permanency Planning Panel Forms

- All concerns relating to timeliness and quality of forms will be raised with Heads of Service by Permanence Assurance Lead or Assistant Head of Service, Corporate Parenting
- Quarterly review of performance will be submitted to Operational Directors

Permanency Planning

- If there is a delay in actioning decisions, subsequent to the panel reviewing a child's plan, the matter will be escalated to the Heads of Service and Operational Directors for immediate action
- Any poor attendance or presentation at the panel and the Permanency Tracking Meeting will be raised with Heads of Service to consider training or performance management needed