

### Child Permanence Meetings – Overview

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Permanency planning is based on the philosophy that all children have the right to a safe, secure and stable home where they feel loved and have a sense of belonging.

Where children and young people are in care the primary focus of permanency planning is to prevent drift and delay to achieve permanence at the earliest opportunity.

Permanence is the long-term plan for a child or young person during their childhood and beyond and provides an underpinning framework for all social work intervention from family support to adoption. It aims to provide a framework for all emotional, physical and legal conditions that give a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging.

The emphasis on early consideration of permanency planning and avoidance of drift has led to the development of parallel planning, where efforts are made to rehabilitate children, in parallel to gathering and preparing information to inform alternative plans for children.

Child Permanence Planning Meetings have been introduced in Dudley to consider all plans for permanence. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that a clear work plan is agreed with appropriate review points.

The meeting should be held at least every six weeks until permanence is achieved and will ensure that children and young people's needs are fully explored with appropriate decision making reached to optimise permanence options.

The meeting will be chaired by the Team Manager and attended by the child's social worker, permanence advisor, fostering, representative from Adoption@heart and where appropriate representatives from the Virtual School, Dudley Lighthouse Links, and the Independent Reviewing Officer.

The meeting should consider and agree a work plan that:

- From the outset adopts a parallel planning approach, which frontloads assessment and interventions.
- Identifies the child's views, wishes and feelings.
- Identify any assessments required within agreed timescales for review and completion.
- Review of the family genogram to ensure all friends and family have been explored and identified for consideration of viable support and / or alternative care.
- Consideration of the individual needs of the child, sibling relationships and family time plan.



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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Agreement of dates for the completion of assessments and any additional work to inform the final care plan.

Further information on the Child Permanence Strategy can be found on Dudley's online procedures:

[https://dudleychildcare.proceduresonline.com/g\\_perm\\_plan.html](https://dudleychildcare.proceduresonline.com/g_perm_plan.html)

