

# Permanency Planning Quick Guide

Permanence Plans are required for all children who are looked after. For those who start to be looked after at age 15+ years, the needs assessment and the Pathway Plan form the Permanence Plan. Permanence planning is a process and the child's needs should be kept under review at all times.

## Permanency Planning Meetings

- The PPM or discussion with Specialist Service Teams, should occur at least two weeks before the second review.
- The child's care plan must be updated on LCS 28 days after the first CLA review. The plan for permanence is an integral part of the care plan and is reviewed at the second CLA review.
- For children in care proceedings, the second CLA review will take place no more than 14 weeks after the child became looked after. For all other cases, the second CLA review will take place no more than 16 weeks after the child became looked after.
- For Brothers and sisters, there may be only one Permanence Planning Meeting but each child must have a separate plan using the Child and Young Person's Permanence Plan
- Where the Adoption Team Manager attends the Permanence Planning Meeting and issues adoption advice following the meeting, this should be circulated to both the social worker and the IRO following the meeting within at least 5 working days.
- The completed minutes and summary sheet must be sent to the IRO at least 5 working days before the second CLA review. When the minutes of the PPM are available on LCS the allocated IRO must be notified.
- For children 14 years plus the long-term care plan can be ratified in a long-term placement at a review meeting and the IRO will record the decision on LCS.

## Brothers and Sisters

- It is important to assess brother and/or sister relationships early on in the planning process to inform permanency planning.
- The Sibling Attachment checklist should be completed on all CiN/CP/CLA Plans and reviewed regularly.
- If a child has a brother and/or sister already placed in an adoptive placement, then active consideration must be given to placing the brothers and/or sisters together.
- The decision as to whether the brothers and/or sisters should be placed in an adoptive home or not must be given with reasons in the Permanence Plan.

## Preventing Drift

- All children who are **subject of a Placement Order will have a CLA Review every three months** to monitor the progress of family finding.

- All children who continue to be subject of a Placement Order after six months, and where adoption is unlikely to be approved within 12 months must have their Care Plan referred to the Head of Service for Adoption and Fostering or Head of Family Safeguarding or Head of Children Looked After.