

Children Young People and Families (CYPF)

Permanence Planning Meeting (PPM) Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

Early permanence planning is essential for all children in care to avoid drift and progress plans for security and attachment. The objective of planning for permanence is to ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond.

Permanence is a framework of emotional, physical and legal conditions that gives a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity.

Permanence is a guiding principle for all services working with children and families and applies to all children in care.

2. Purpose of Permanence Planning Meeting (PPM)

For Permanence Planning meetings to be held for all children (under the age of fifteen) who remain accommodated at the first looked after review unless there is a clear return home date.

The Permanence Planning meetings will

- Focus on the assessed needs of the child in relation to their emotional, physical, social, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious needs as well as proposed contact plans
- Formulate a profile of the child's needs and match these against the proposed placements
- Develop a suitable Support Plan to contribute to the success and sustainability of the placement
- Ensure the child's wishes are duly considered within the meeting
- Review the possible permanence options, with a view to agreeing one plan or several plans to be progressed concurrently
- Identify what needs to be done to achieve the chosen plan(s) and agree who will do what and by when
- Track, monitor and advise upon direct work with child, including Life Story work / preparation and transitions work
- Where there are differences of opinion between involved professionals the meeting should clarify these, and identify a process for resolution. Where it is necessary for the Service Director to make a decision the Permanence Planning Meeting (PPM) should identify the available options and the strengths and risks of each.

3. Membership

The Permanence Planning Meeting will consist of the following members:

- Chair – Team Manager
- Social Worker / Practice Manager
- Fostering Team Manager / Practice Manager
- Fostering Supervising Social Worker
- Aspire Adoption Family and Finding Social Worker where appropriate
- Other professionals (including Health & Education) where appropriate
- IRO representative
- Foster Carers
- Where appropriate consideration should be given to inviting the parents to the meeting.

4. Frequency

The initial Permanence Planning Meeting should take place within 4 weeks of the initial looked after review meeting. Subsequently monthly update meetings until permanency is achieved.

The minutes from the Permanency Planning Meetings will be available within 3 working days and will be attached to the child's records on RAISE.