

## Permanency Tracking Overview

### Terms of Reference

#### Introduction

Early permanency planning is essential for all looked after children 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.

Permanency is a guiding principle for all services working with children and families and applies to all children looked after. **Think Permanence.**

#### Purpose of Tracking:

To ascertain how the child's permanence needs are going to be met. To monitor the progress of plans which should incorporate parallel planning where appropriate. To ensure all plans are progressed in a timely manner. To monitor and report on the themes and issues the department can learn from and adapt accordingly. To ensure that there is a permanence plan in place by the second looked after review.

Permanence is achieved through a number of routes – return to family, adoption, special guardianship, connected person placement, child arrangement order and long term fostering. All of these must be duly considered.

#### The Tracking meeting will:

- Meet monthly (first Friday)
- Monitor and advise on permanency planning processes
- Monitor FGC contribution to permanency planning
- Track permanency planning through to point it is secured for the child i.e.: Permanent return to family network, Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order, Child Arrangement Order or approved match of a permanent fostering placement
- Focus on plans being progressed in a SMART and timely manner
- Advise and make recommendations in respect of care planning and ensure that case planning is effective
- Endeavour to resolve any presenting issues/obstacles and seek senior manager decisions/view if required and ensure that there is effective communication between the professionals involved
- Escalate concerns with senior manager, as required, where particular cases highlight drift

or difficulties that will hinder implementation of agreed plans

**Membership:**

- Chair (Service Manager, Corporate Parenting)
- Adoption Team Manager
- Family Safeguarding Team Manager representative
- LAC 0-17 Team Manager
- Special Guardianship Deputy Team Manager
- IRO representative
- Information Management representative
- Occasional other participants, as required

**Accountability:**

The Meeting is accountable to SMT.

**Frequency:**

The Tracking meetings will take place monthly, on first Friday of each month.

The minutes from the Tracking Meeting will be available within 3 working days.