

Placement planning is part of the Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. Part 3. The Regulations state what is required in making arrangements for a child being placed in care (this includes placement with parents).

If it is not reasonably practicable to prepare the Placement Plan before making the placement, it must be prepared within 3 days of the start of the placement. It forms part of the Care Plan.

The placement planning template is based on the assessed needs of the child. The Placement Plan sets out how the placement will contribute to meeting the child/young person's needs and it brings together other parts of the Care Plan i.e. education, health as well as contact arrangements, leisure and life skills development, identity and religious requirements.

The Placement Plan records unmet needs. For example if a carer cannot meet all requirements such as transport to school, the placement plan must include who/how this will be met (pg. 3 of the plan).

Placement planning must include views/wishes and feelings of child/young person (age appropriate) and also involvement of parents/persons with parental responsibility as well as the child's SW and Supervising SW. **The placement planning meeting should include those involved in the care of the child i.e. education/virtual school, CAMHS and others important to the child**, be signed by all relevant parties, including parents.

Placement plans must be flexible and reviewed regularly. As a minimum they will be reviewed as part of the child's statutory review. However, they should be a dynamic plan

Why is it important?

The Placement Plan is critical to good care planning and underpins placement stability. Children/young people need to feel cared about as well as cared for. Placement planning is to ensure they get the right kind of help and support to do well in their lives.

Ensuring the carer(s) has all the relevant information about a child's needs and what they like is essential so that the carer can safeguard the child/young person but also understand how to help a child/young person feel happy and settled in placement. Sharing key information with the carer is necessary not optional. It should include details about what food the child/young person likes, what they enjoy doing, sleeping routines etc.

Being clear about who does what and when is important for the child as well as the professional network around the child/young person. They need to be clear about what to expect from their placement and how they will be supported to develop and grow.

It is a statutory duty to ensure there is a good Placement Plan developed with children/young people, their parents and carers where possible. We are the corporate parents and have the responsibility to ensure children are well looked after and have every opportunity to thrive. Placement Planning helps drive this responsibility.

How do we do it?

Early planning is essential and being clear about the child/young person's needs. Placement planning should be started before the placement is made, where possible, but if not within 3 days of making the placement. Pre placement visits should be arranged where practicable.

The child's social worker is responsible for ensuring the placement plan is completed accurately and some of this can be done in advance of the meeting. The supervising social worker is responsible for

arranging and facilitating the placement planning meeting. All sections of the Placement Plan should be discussed within the meeting.

Information to be included in Child's Placement Plan:

- How on day-to-day basis the child will be cared for, and his/her welfare safeguarded and promoted by appropriate person.
- Arrangements for contact with parents, those with PR and any connected persons. This should include sisters and brothers where appropriate and reasons why not should be included. Include any relevant Court Orders relating to contact.
- Arrangements for meeting child's health needs (including physical, emotional and mental health as well as dental care). This should include details of GP and dentist. It should also include arrangements for giving or withholding consent to medical interventions.
- The child's pocket money arrangements and the transfer of any savings already accrued.
- Arrangements for education and training including the name and address of school/college, name of designated teacher at school, whether child has EHCP or SEND, the arrangements for the child's travel to and from school.
- Whether an independent visitor has been requested or a request should be made.
- Circumstances in which placement might be terminated (Reg 14)
- Frequency of visits by SW and Supervising SW.
- Name and contact details of IRO, SW, PA (if relevant).
- Delegation of authority for day to day care.
- Expected duration of placement.

Parents should be involved in placement planning, including being taken to see the placement and meeting the carers when it is safe to do so.

Placement plans will be updated as required (when needs/circumstances change). They will be reviewed as part of the statutory review as a minimum and should be provided to the IRO in advance of each LAC review.