**Please ensure your care plan is set out exactly in the format below as this is a court document. Simply insert the information required where indicated. No text should be in italic on completion – ensure all guidance notes are removed.**

## **CARE PLAN**

## FULL NAME OF CHILD:-

## DATE OF BIRTH:

COURT CASE NO:

NAME OF COURT HEARING THE APPLICATION:

DATE OF NEXT COURT HEARING:

TYPE OF HEARING:

NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NO. OF PLAN:

DATE OF PLAN:

**Section 1 – Overall Aim** (this needs to be succinct!)

* 1. Aim of the plan and summary of the timetable.

*Example in blue:*

*The plan for XXXXX has been based on the philosophy that wherever*

*possible, children should be brought up by their birth parents. However, if this*

*is not possible then the next best option is to be brought up by other members*

*of their birth family or significant others. In the event that neither of these can*

*be achieved alternative permanency options are considered, taking account of*

*the child’s age and needs. In planning for permanence for xxx the*

*following options were considered:*

*Parental care*

*Placement with relatives/ connected person*

*Foster care*

*Residential care*

*Adoption.*

*Please see the balance sheet contained in the Final Statement of (name of social worker), dated XXX paragraph 6.1*

*(Cross reference to balance sheet contained in final statement to avoid repetition.)*

* 1. **Recommendation**

*In consideration of all the benefits and detriments to XX as demonstrated in the balance sheet referenced above, the Local Authority’s plan is to achieve permanence through placement with relative/adoption etc. In order to achieve this, the Local Authority will be seeking a XXX order(s) from the court.*

(Where the plan is adoption, the recommendation must match that in Annexe B and therefore, liaison is needed with the social worker from the Permanence Team)

**Section 2 – Child’s Needs Including Contact**

2.1 The child’s identified needs including needs arising from race, culture, religion or language, special education, health or disability.

2.2 The extent to which the wishes and views of the child have been obtained and acted upon.

2.3 The reasons for supporting this or explanations of why wishes/views have not been given absolute precedence.

2.4 The impact on the child concerned of any harm that he or she suffered or was likely to suffer

2.5 The child’s current and future needs and the way in which the long term plan for the upbringing of the child would meet those current and future needs

2.6 Arrangements for and purpose of contact in meeting the child’s needs (specifying contact relationship e.g. parent, step-parent, other family member, former carer, friend, siblings including those looked after who may have a separate placement) any proposals to restrict or terminate contact.

*The following contact arrangements have been informed by research with particular focus on assessing what contact arrangements will best provide for the developmental needs of XXX (name of the child). The key purposes of contact for children in alternative permanent families include: 1) enabling attachment to new carers, 2) promoting positive identity and 3) enabling emotional healing and promoting self esteem. It is recognised that best outcomes for children are achieved where ‘contact arrangements are psychologically open, and ideally structurally open’ (Planning for Contact in Permanent Placements: Paul Adams) and take account of the birth parents’ insight and willingness into how they can help their child make sense of the loss and trauma. The planned arrangements outlined below take the above into account:*

***Briefly outline final proposed plan referring to statement to avoid repetition.***

**Section 3 – Views of Others**

3.1 The extent to which the wishes and views of the child’s parents and anyone else with a sufficient interest in the child (including representatives of other agencies current and former carers) have been obtained and acted upon.

(Where the plan is adoption, this should inform and match the same question in the CPR and Annexe B and therefore, close liaison with the Permanence Team social worker is needed)

3.2 The reasons for supporting them or explanations of why wishes/views have not been given absolute precedence.

**Section 4 – Placement Details and Timetable**

4.1 Proposed Placement – Type and details (or details of alternative placements).

4.2 Time that is likely to elapse before proposed placement is made.

4.3 Likely duration of placement (or other placement).

4.4 Arrangements for health care (including consent to examination and treatment).

4.5 Arrangements for education (including any pre-school day-care/activity).

4.6 Arrangements for reunification (often known as rehabilitation) (see also 4.8).

4.7 Other services to be provided to the child.

4.8 Other services to be provided to parents and other family members.

4.9 Details of proposed support services in placement for the carers.

* 1. Specific details of the parent’s role in day to day arrangements.

*X (name of parents) will be consulted if any decision needs to be taken with regard to X’s day-to-day arrangements. Both XX and XX (parent’s names) will be invited to attend the Looked after Children Review meetings where some of these arrangements will be discussed.*

**Section 5 – Management and Support by Local Authority**

5.1 Who is to be responsible for implementing the overall plan?

*Gloucestershire Children and Young People’s Service will be responsible for implementing this Care Plan, should a Care Order be granted.*

* 1. Who is to be responsible for implementing specific tasks within the plan.

*X, the Social Worker, for X the child, and XX , the Team Manager of the Children and Families Team, will be responsible for ensuring specific tasks will be undertaken.*

5.3 Dates of review and the name of the Independent Reviewing Officer (if appropriate).

5.4 Contingency plan if placement breaks down or if preferred placement is not available.

*When considering contingency planning, this should include the provision of extra support to prevent breakdown with some thinking as to what this would be and consideration of what other plan would meet the child’s needs.*

*e.g Should the long-term foster placement break down an alternative placement will be sought. However, if a placement was at risk of breakdown, extra support would be provided by the Local Authority in an attempt to prevent this.*

5.5 Arrangements for input by parents, the child and others into the on‑going decision making process.

*The overall decision making will lie with the Local Authority. However, X’s*

*parents will be consulted and kept informed of all decisions made by the Local Authority. They will be consulted and involved in the decision making as far as is possible when identifying suitable carers.*

5.6 Arrangements for notifying the responsible authority of disagreements about the implementation of the Care Plan or making representations or complaints.

*XXX have been given a copy of the Local Authority’s complaints procedures and may also raise specific concerns either directly with the social workers or through the review consultation process. It is the Local Authority’s intention to resolve any complaints at the most local level whenever possible.*

This care plan was prepared by      .

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Dated:

This care plan was approved *by (Must be signed by both Team Manager and Head of Service)*

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Dated:

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Dated:

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