

Children's Services – Panels

There are a range of panels across Children's Services which act as decision making bodies in relation to children's cases. These all have support from Business Support and a review of panels has been undertaken to identify opportunities for improvement.

The following table details the panels reviewed and timings / frequency.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday		
9.00	Achieving Early Permanency	Access to Resources			Adoption Panel (First Wednesday of each month)	Fostering Panel (First and third Thursday of each month)	Multi Agency Action Meeting (Bi-weekly)	Legal Gateway
10.00								
11.00								
12.00								
13.00			Short Breaks (Last Wednesday of each month)					
14.00				Cross Service Transfer				
15.00								
16.00								
17.00	Youth Offending Panels (As needed on weekday evenings)							
18.00								
19.00								

The review identified that late paperwork from staff across the service and cases being considered where there is missing information is having a significant impact on Business Support. Another issue that impacted on Business Support capacity, was the amount of printing being done for panel members

The findings from the review have been considered at DMT, and there was agreement that if paper work is not submitted in accordance with the agreed deadlines or if paperwork is incomplete, the case will not be considered at panel. DMT acknowledged that there will be occasions where there are exceptional circumstances and in these situations, Head of Service approval is needed.

With regards to printing, only the chair of the panel will receive a hard copy (if needed) along with copies for any observers. All other panel members must either ensure they have their laptop with them, or have printed their own copy.

The following table sets out the range of panels reviewed and the appropriate deadlines

Panel	Frequency	Submission Deadline
Achieving Early Permanence Panel	Every Monday	5pm on Wednesday before
Access to Resources Panel	Every Tuesday	12 noon on Friday before
Cross Service Transfer	Every Wednesday	5pm on Friday before
Adoption Panel	First Wednesday of each month	Monday 2 weeks prior to Panel
Fostering Panel	First and Third Thursday of each month	Wednesday 3 weeks prior to Panel
Multi Agency Action Meeting	Every other Thursday	5pm on Monday before APM
Legal Gateway	Every Friday	4pm Wednesday before panel