Ending of Foster Placements for Looked After Children:

Stability Meeting Process.

1. Purpose and Scope: This policy outlines the Stability Meeting Process for ending both in house and Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements for looked after children within the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2. Recognising and Reporting Placement Stability Concerns: All social work staff must report any concerns about placement stability to their line manager. Immediate action is crucial to address and possibly prevent the disruption of a placement.

3. Triggers for a Placement Stability Meeting: A Placement Stability Meeting will be convened when:

- Concern arises from the child's looked after review process or the foster carer's annual review process.
- An allegation or complaint is made.
- The child regularly absconds or is absent.
- The relationship between the child and foster carer appears fragile.
- The child expresses a desire to end the placement.
- Foster carer(s) indicate difficulties or inability to continue caring for the child.
- Concerns arise that the placement does not meet the child's needs.

4. Objective: The child's social work team, in collaboration with the Fostering Service or IFA, will strive to prevent disruptions. The primary aim is to address issues causing instability and to ensure the child's best interest is upheld.

5. Coordination of Stability Meetings: The Child's allocated Social Worker will coordinate the stability meeting in collaboration with the Fostering Service or IFA (where applicable).

6. Attendees: The meeting will comprise:

- Child/ Young Person
- Child's social worker
- Child's Social Work Team Manager
- Foster carer(s)
- Supervising Social Worker
- Fostering Manager/ IFA Manager
- Relevant professionals
- Advocate for the Young person (if necessary)

7. Chairing the Meeting: The meeting will be chaired by a team manager or advanced practitioner (AP). Depending on the nature of the placement, the chairperson may vary.

8. Documentation: The chair of the meeting will minute the meeting and agreed actions. The need for a review must be established during the meeting, and it may be followed by a series of meetings to monitor progress. All discussions must adhere to the placement stability meeting templates provided on the H drive.

9. External Resources and Financial Implications: Should external services be required, funding must be sought and approved through HARP.

10. Giving Notice: In cases where a planned placement termination is decided upon, LBH must provide adequate notice to the Foster Carers and/or IFA (where applicable).

11. Record Keeping and Financial Updates: Post placement end, the child's social worker is responsible for updating electronic records and notifying the finance department. This ensures the halt of payments to the carer/IFA as required.

12. Disruption Meetings: If placements end abruptly, a Disruption Meeting is necessary to understand and prevent recurrence. This meeting reflects on the placement's history, determines lessons learned, and, when possible, seeks resolution between involved parties.

13. End of Placement Reports: At the end of every placement, foster carers and the responsible social work staff must complete an End of Placement Report. These reports are critical for reflection, assessing training, support needs, and understanding the placement's success or challenges. They play an essential role in the foster carer's annual review and help to enhance the quality of service.

14. Circulation: Copies of all reports, minutes, and relevant documentation will be distributed as appropriate.

Review and Amendments: This policy is subject to periodic reviews and updates to ensure it aligns with best practices and meets the evolving needs of looked after children within the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Appendix One.

London Borough of Hillingdon

Placement Stability Meeting Format

Placement Stability Meeting held on

Participants	Role

Apologies	Role

Child / Young Person

Age   **DOB**

Placement Commencement Date

When Did Placement Difficulties Commence

Brief Background Information

Presenting Difficulties in the Placement

Positive Aspects of the Placement

Influencing Factors Outside of the Placement

Support Offered to Prevent breakdown

Recommendations of Further Support to be Offered

Decisions and Recommendations

Date and Venue of Next Meeting