

Placement Plans – Practice Standards

Background

This guidance should be read in conjunction with Children Act 1989 Vol 2 Care Planning guidance 3.177 to 3.229 and our local Tri-X procedures – sections 6.1 to 6.4.

Purpose

The Placement Plan should set out in detail how the placement will contribute to meeting the day to day needs of the child as set out in the Care Plan, through providing necessary information to the carer(s) about the needs of the child and appropriate strategies to meet these needs. It should therefore be a working document that reflects changes over time - 6.2.3 to 6.2.6 of Tri-X sets out the areas to be covered in the Placement Plan across placement settings (with parents, connected carer, fostering and residential)

Timing

For planned placements the Placement Plan must be completed in advance and finalised via the Placement Planning Meeting. Where this is not possible (emergency placements) the carer(s) must be provided with sufficient available information to enable them to meet the needs of the child until a placement planning meeting can agree a Placement Plan within 5 days of the placement starting. This will then require update as the Care Plan for the child is developed.

Quality

The Placement Plan should set out not just the day to day care arrangements but how the placement can support the wider Care Plan – preparing a child towards adoption, promoting family links towards reunification or preparing a young person for independence, for example. It should reflect the arrangements for preparing and introducing the child to placement and should be bespoke to the child, reflecting their voice, individual needs and strengths. This will be achieved through efforts to co-produce and collaborate with children and young people in the completion of a Placement Plan.

Residential providers will produce a local Placement Plan at the Home which reflects the overarching Placement Plan, to which the Social Worker and others should contribute.

Management Oversight and Quality Assurance / Review

The allocated Social Worker is responsible for (co-) producing an up to date, specific, informative and meaningful Placement Plan. Team Managers should satisfy themselves as to the quality of plans through supervisory oversight and sampling.

The Social Worker should review the quality and accuracy of the Placement Plan before each Looked After Child Review (Tri-X 6.3.3) and update as necessary (via an LCS 'revision'; not creating a new Placement Plan). The Independent Reviewing Officer should quality assure this as part of the review process and make any necessary recommendations. As a minimum standard it is expected that the Placement Plan should be updated through revision at least annually.

