



North Tyneside Council

PERMANENCE POLICY & GUIDANCE

North Tyneside Children's Services Policy for Permanence Planning

Document Title	Permanence Policy and Guidance
Version	1
Author	Victoria McLeod – Senior Manager Safe and Supported Service
Owner	Victoria McLeod
Date Approved	08/07/2019
Date to be reviewed	09/07/2021

Contents

- 1. North Tyneside Permanence Policy Statement**
- 2. What is Permanence**
- 3. Why do we have Permanence Planning?**
- 4. What are the options for Permanence?**
- 5. Good Practice – what we should do**
- 6. Legal routes to permanence**
- 7. Long Term foster care**
- 8. Appendix 1**

1. NORTH TYNESIDE PERMANENCE POLICY STATEMENT

Permanency planning in North Tyneside Council is based on our core commitment and belief that every child has the right to a permanent and stable home, preferably with their own family. The primary focus of permanency planning is to prevent children drifting in care.

We want all children in North Tyneside to live happy, healthy lives and achieve the best possible outcomes they can. Whilst most children and young people are able to do this without any involvement from statutory children's services, we know that at times families require support to overcome difficulties and challenging circumstances. When this happens, we work with families, offering targeted interventions to support them to stay together. However, should a child or Young Person require care by North Tyneside Council we will work diligently to find permanent, safe homes for them, in a timely manner and acknowledge that the best possible care involves giving children security, stability and love through their childhood and beyond.

2. WHAT IS PERMANENCE

Permanence is the long-term plan for a child's upbringing and provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families, from family support through to adoption. It aims to ensure a framework of emotional, physical and legal conditions that will give a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging.

3. WHY DO WE HAVE PERMANENCE PLANNING?

The objective of planning for permanence is to ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond and to give them a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging. It is also important to remember that older children and young people also need to achieve permanence in their lives although they may not wish (for a variety of reasons) to be in a foster home or to be adopted. For example, they may prefer to live in a children's home where they can also achieve a sense of security and belonging.

The question "how is the child's permanence needs being met?" must be at the centre of everything we do.

Where it is necessary for a child to leave their family:

- This should be for as short a time as is required to secure a safe, supported return home; or
- If a child cannot return home, plans must be made for alternative permanent care. Family members and friends should always be considered in the first instance with permanence secured through the appropriate legal order to meet the child's needs;
- Where it is not in the child's best interests to live within the direct family network (i.e. with birth parents, grandparents, aunty or uncle or anyone else who is closely connected to the child), it will usually be in the interests of the child for alternative permanent carers to be identified and the placement secured through adoption, long term foster care, Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order;
- A Residential home should only be considered when alternative family care or foster care is not appropriate;
- For older children arranging for their transition to supported and semi supported accommodation must be considered.

Where it is clear that families and children are unable to live together, planning must be swift and clear to identify permanent alternative care. This is our key consideration where alternative care is being considered.

- Wherever possible, care should be provided locally unless clearly identified as inappropriate which may be due worries such as sexual or criminal exploitation.
- Family Time with the family, Connected Person and extended family should be facilitated and built on (unless clearly identified as inappropriate in which case Legal advice should be sought).
- The professionals involved will work in partnership with parents/families.
- The wishes and feelings of the child should always be gained and taken into account. The older and more mature the child, the greater the weight should be given to their views and wishes.
- Whilst it is important to promote the child's links with their racial, cultural and religious heritage, this should not be allowed to introduce delay in achieving permanence for the child.

Please note that due consideration no longer has to be given to a child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background when matching a child and prospective adopters.

4. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR PERMANENCE

4.1 Staying/Returning Home

4.2 Placement with Family or Friends/Connected Persons

4.3 Adoption

4.4 Early Permanence Placements & Fostering for Adoption

4.5 Special Guardianship

4.6 Child Arrangements Orders

4.7 Long-term Fostering

4.1 Staying / returning home

- a) North Tyneside Council believe Children and young people are best cared for wherever possible and where there is enough safety with their birth or extended family. We know that if a child can be cared for by natural or extended family, they have a network of support that will last their entire lives, at a level which any Local Authority would struggle to achieve
- b) Where a child cannot remain safely at home and intervention is necessary which means that the child(ren) do require care by the Local Authority then the focus of work should be on how quickly the child can return to their birth parents or family (reunification);
- c) For reunification to be successful research has shown that several factors are relevant to achieve a safe and appropriate return:
 - Thorough multi agency assessments;
 - Good support identified from extended network of family and/or friends
 - Clear written expectations have been set for the parent(s) to meet before the child could return home and within what timescales (Timeline and bottomlines)
 - Problems which led to the admission to care have been addressed;
 - Return to other parent or parent has a new partner who makes a difference;
 - Appropriate safety plan and any specialist support has been provided and parents engage with this;
 - There is good preparation of parent(s) and child(ren), including words and pictures / life story work;

- Good monitoring of the child(ren) before and after return.
- d) If a child is subject to care proceedings and an Interim Care Order; and the assessment work indicates that reunification to birth parent(s) should be attempted, then:
- Wherever possible, time within the care proceedings should be used for this;
 - All Final Plans for Court proceedings should be discussed within a Legal Gateway Meeting prior to the Looked after Review and prior to any Final Care Plan being filed.
 - Placement with Parent regulations (see Placement with Parent Regulations Guidance) should be used to support placement at home with parent(s) if subject to Interim Care Orders (remember these require agreement from the Assistant Director and should be sent to the Senior Manager to gain approval);
 - If, at the final hearing in the care proceedings, it is proposed that the plan for permanency should be for the child(ren) to live with a parent or parents then proportionate use of the court orders available should be used, including use of Supervision Order or No Order where safe and appropriate to do so;
 - The key point is to ensure that arrangements are in place to provide multi agency support to the parent(s) and child(ren) through a clear and appropriate care plan;
 - The Children's Guardian (CAFCASS) and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) should be kept informed about any plans in relation to children and young people within Legal Proceedings.
- e) It will be necessary to ensure that there is parallel planning alongside reunification so that there are alternatives identified should reunification not be possible, this should include alternative family care and depending on age and stage of development long term foster care or adoption;
- f) For reunification with parents when a Care Order is in place Placement with Parent Regulations will be required. The Local Authority can only seek to discharge the Care Order if the child / young person has been settled and stable in their care for at least six months. Agreement should be sought from Legal Gateway Meeting and via a Looked After Review Meeting.

Support available to enable reunification to parents as a permanence option:

- A clearly written safety plan which the family have been part of devising and agree with and which includes support from within the family network as well as any professional support;

Available legal orders to support this permanence option:

- Supervision Order
- Section 8 Order Children Act 1989 – which includes a Child Arrangement Order, Prohibited Steps Order and a Specific Issues Order
- Financial Assistance Order;

For Further information around reunification please see the following resource:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2015/reunification-practice-framework/>

4.2

Placement with Family or Friends / Connected Persons

Family and friends' carers play a unique and often vital role in helping children and young people to remain with people they know and trust if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents. Most of the family and friends who provide care are grandparents, aunts and uncles, but can also include others such as older siblings, cousins and family friends.

Within North Tyneside routes in to Local Authority care are undertaken on a planned basis (via assessment and attendance at Legal Gateway Meeting and / or Resource and Placement Panel) or in an emergency via SDER and Out of Hours. Either route should have considered alternative family care, should it not be safe for a child to remain in or return to their parents / carers care. In most instances, it may be necessary to gain agreement from parents for S20 Accommodation for the child to become Looked After even if they are to be placed with family or a friend. It is important that Senior Manager and Legal advice is sought in all instances and that Legal Gateway Meeting (LGM) is attended if S20 Accommodation has been agreed. Within this forum the use of S20 Accommodation will be tracked and monitored and agreement to Public Law Outline, issuing Legal Proceedings or supporting a Private Law application will be determined. Should the worries be such that the child is at risk of significant harm and parents do not agree to S20 Accommodation then it may be necessary to urgently issue Legal Proceedings, again this would only be undertaken following consultation with our Legal advisor and an appropriate Senior Manager. It is very important to establish at the earliest possible stage of a child coming into care which relatives or friends might be available to care for the child, in order to avoid delays in planning for permanence.

If children are not able to return to their birth families, ideally their placement within the extended family or with friends would be supported by a Child Arrangement Order or a Special Guardianship Order or through adoption. All plans around the

permanence options should be discussed in supervision and agreed as part of review within Legal Gateway Meeting.

It would be unusual for children to remain on Care Orders when placed safely with relatives and for the carers to remain as formal kinship foster carers.

Family Time in kinship arrangements can often be more complex and this needs to be addressed in the Care Plan. A Supervision Order may assist kinship carers in feeling supported during the first six months to a year of a kinship placement, rather than the child remaining on a care order.

Support available to enable this permanence option:

- A clear support plan including support from within the family as agreed within the fostering assessment;
- A range of multi-agency support
- North Tyneside Council may consider alternative support to that which is identified within the assessment, this can be considered at the Friends and Family Panel.

Available Legal Orders to support this permanence option:

- Child Arrangement Order;
- Special Guardianship Order;
- Supervision Order;
- Adoption Order.

4.3 Adoption

In some cases where a child cannot safely be cared for by their birth parents or within their family and friends care the permanence plan is that of adoption. North Tyneside Council is committed to adoption as a legal permanence option which can be considered. Adopt North East (ANE) is the regional adoption agency, which combines five local authority adoption services from North Tyneside, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland and South Tyneside.

North Tyneside Council work in partnership with ANE who deliver the following services:

- Recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters
- Matching and placement – to match prospective adopters with children in need of adoption
- Post placement and post adoption order support
- Support and advice to all affected by adoption
- Develop and manage all forms of post adoption contact between adopted children and birth families
- Step parent adoption
- Inter-country adoption.

For Further information in relation to ANE and to read their Statement of Purpose please follow:

<https://www.adoptnortheast.org.uk/information-packs>

An Early Notification Form should be completed and sent to ANE to allow planning as soon as adoption is under consideration, and before the Agency Decision Maker is asked to decide that a child should be placed for adoption.

Research does support adoption as a primary consideration and as a main factor contributing to the stability of children and the achievement of positive outcomes.

Adoption transfers Parental Responsibility for the child from the birth parents and others who had Parental Responsibility, including the local authority, permanently and solely to the adopter(s). The child is deemed to be the child of the adopter(s) as if they had been born to them and the child takes on the surname of the adoptive parent.

The child's birth certificate is changed to an adoption certificate showing the adopter(s) to be the child's parent(s). A child who is not already a citizen of the UK acquires British citizenship if adopted in the UK by a citizen of the UK.

This legal status applies into adulthood and is therefore a lifelong legal commitment, unlike any other legal permanence options.

Adoption has lifelong implications for all involved and a comprehensive support service is provided from Adopt North East.

Adoption Passport information:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bcef006a09a7e286604a751/t/5ce547b90bc465000117a936/1558529978013/5.+The+Adoption+Passport.pdf>

When a child is 'matched' with potential adoptive parent(s) a financial assessment can be requested, this is means tested and takes in to account the child's needs and the adoptive parent(s) financial situation. North Tyneside Council know that bringing up an adopted child is not always easy and from time to time there may be a need for some additional support and advice, this is available via the ANE social worker from the point of a child being placed and post adoption. Individual help will be offered and ANE can provide details of other sources of support, including support groups, training and social events. ANE have a contract with After Adoption to provide independent advice and support and aim to provide support for as long as it is required following the adoption and at any time in the future.

Adoption does not necessarily mean the end to all contact between birth parents and their children. Indeed, in most cases, there is regular contact – usually in the form of an exchange of letters and sometimes photographs, 'indirect contact' via the 'Post Box' system managed by the Adoption Service. This indirect contact provides the opportunity for birth parents to keep up with the changes in their children's lives and to send information about themselves and other family members to the child and so maintain the child's sense of identity with their origins. Although post adoption contact is usually a voluntary arrangement, it is encouraged as it is considered helpful for the child and an important part of the adoption journey. The expectation is that contact is maintained with siblings when they are placed separately Research indicates that openness in adoption is key and offers continuity when contact is not possible.

North Tyneside Council is committed to preventing delay for children and supports fostering for adoption where appropriate and in order to prevent delay for the child.

Support available to enable this permanence option:

- A clear multi-agency support plan;
- See Adoption Support Procedure for the range of support available, including financial support.

Available legal orders to support this permanence option:

- Care Order and Placement Order followed by:
- Adoption Order.

4.4 Fostering for Adoption and Early Permanence Placements

The Children and Families Act 2014 imposes a duty to consider placements with carers who are approved as both adopters and foster carers and, where a child is placed in a fostering for adoption placement, the relationship which the child has with the person who is a prospective adopter must be considered by the Court or Adoption Agency alongside other relevant relationships the child has with their relatives or other persons. (See **Section 9 Children and Social Work Act 2017 amends Section 1(f) Adoption and Children Act 2002**. North Tyneside Council Fostering Service, Safe and Supported Service and Adopt North East will work together to progress a Fostering for Adoption Placement.

4.5 Special Guardianship (SGO)

Special Guardianship provides an alternative legal status for children, and provides greater security than long term fostering, but without the absolute legal severance from the birth family that an Adoption Order would give. It is a legal route to permanence for children for whom adoption is not appropriate.

The Special Guardian will have parental responsibility for the child and may exercise this to the exclusion of all others with parental responsibility, apart from another Special Guardian. There are exceptions to the decisions a Special Guardian can make, for instance they cannot change the child's surname or take them out of the country without the permission of the court or the agreement of all the people with parental responsibility. The birth parents also retain the right to consent or not to adoption.

Special Guardians may be supported, including financially, by the local authority and will have the right to request an assessment for support services at any time after the Order is made. See Policy for the Calculation and Payments of Special Guardianship Allowances for detailed information. The level and extent of support needed should be established by undertaking a formal assessment this is completed by North Tyneside Fostering Service.

There is no current research available on the outcomes of Special Guardianship to inform practice. However, in North Tyneside we know that a high proportion of Special Guardianship arrangements are provided by family (kinship) and therefore the research regarding kinship placements can be considered. The complexity of these arrangements regarding family time and support needs require close attention

to detail to ensure that Special Guardians are equipped to meet the on-going needs of the children or young person.

Support available to enable this permanence option:

- A clear multi-agency support plan;
- See Special Guardianship Orders Procedure for the range of support available, including financial support.

Available legal orders to support this permanence option:

- Special Guardianship Order;
- Supervision Order;
- Section 8 Orders.

4.6 Child Arrangement Orders

Child Arrangements Orders were introduced in April 2014 by the Children and Families Act 2014 (which amended Section 8 Children Act 1989). They replaced Contact Orders and Residence Orders. Child Arrangement Orders can be considered in both Private Law and Public Law and are not made in favour of the Local Authority rather the applicant such as a father, grandmother, relative or friend of the child / family.

A Child Arrangements Order is a court order regulating arrangements relating to any of the following:

- a. With whom a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact; and
- b. When a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact with any person.

The 'residence' aspects of a Child Arrangements Order (i.e. with whom a child is to live/when a child is to live with any person) can last until the child reaches 18 years unless discharged earlier by the Court or by the making of a Care Order.

The 'contact' aspects of a Child Arrangements Order (with whom and when a child is to spend time with or otherwise have contact with) cease to have effect when the child reaches 16 years, unless the court is satisfied that the circumstances of the case are exceptional.

A person named in the Order as a person with whom the child is to live, will have Parental Responsibility for the child while the Order remains in force. Where a person is named in the Order as a person with whom the child is to spend time or otherwise have contact, but is not named in the Order as a person with whom the

child is to live, the court may provide in the Order for that person to have Parental Responsibility for the child while the Order remains in force.

A court which is considering making, varying or discharging a Child Arrangements Orders, including making any directions or conditions which may be attached to such an Order, must have regard to the paramountcy principle, the 'no order' principle and the welfare checklist under the Children Act 1989.

Interim Child Arrangements Orders can be made.

Where a child would otherwise have to be placed with strangers, a placement with family or friends/Connected Persons may be identified as a preferred option and the carers may be encouraged and supported to apply for a Child Arrangements Orders where this will be in the best interests of the child.

The holder of a Child Arrangements Order does not have the right to consent to the child's adoption nor to appoint a guardian; in addition, they may not change the child's name nor arrange for the child's emigration without the consent of all those with Parental Responsibility or the leave of the court.

Any person can apply for a Child Arrangements Order without needing the leave of the court and in addition, any person who is not automatically entitled to apply for a Child Arrangements Order may seek leave of the court to do so:

- Any parent (whether or not they have Parental Responsibility for the child), guardian or Special Guardian of the child;
- Any person named, in a Child Arrangements Order that is in force with respect to the child, as a person with whom the child is to live;
- Any party to a marriage (whether or not subsisting) in relation to whom the child is a child of the family. This allows step-parents (including those in a civil partnership) and former step-parents who fulfil these criteria to apply as of right;
- Any person with whom the child has lived for a period of at least 3 years - this period need not be continuous but must not have begun more than 5 years before, or ended more than 3 months before, the making of the application; or

Any person:

- Who has the consent of each of the persons named in a Child Arrangements Order as a person with whom the child is to live;

- In any case where the child is in the care of a local authority, who has the consent of that authority;
- In whose favour a Child Arrangements Order has been made in relation to the 'contact' aspects and who has been awarded Parental Responsibility by the court (i.e. they would be able to apply for a Child Arrangements Order in relation to the 'residence' aspects);
- Who has the consent of everyone with parental responsibility for the child.
- A local authority foster carer is entitled to apply for a Child Arrangements Order relating to with whom the child is to live, and/or when the child is to live with that person, if the child has lived with them for a period of at least 1 year immediately preceding the application;
- A relative of a child is entitled to apply for a Child Arrangements Order relating to with whom the child is to live, and/or when the child is to live with that person, if the child has lived with the relative for a period of at least 1 year immediately preceding the application. (A relative is a child's grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (by full or half blood), or by marriage or civil partnership.)

A Child Arrangements Order specifying with whom the child is to live has the following advantages:

- It gives Parental Responsibility to the carer whilst maintaining the parents' Parental Responsibility;
- The child will no longer be Looked After and there need be no social work involvement, therefore, unless this is identified as necessary;
- There is no review process;
- The child will not be Looked After and so less stigma is attached to the placement;
- A child subject to a Child Arrangements Order will be entitled to additional education support throughout their school career.

A Child Arrangements Order has the following disadvantages:

- It is less secure than Adoption or Special Guardianship in that an application can be made to revoke the Order. However, the Court making the Order can be asked to attach a condition refusing a parent's right to seek revocation without leave of the court;

- There is no formal continuing support to the family after the Order is made although in some instances, a Child Arrangements Order Allowance may be payable by the local authority;
- There is no professional reviewing of the arrangements after the Order unless a new application to court is made, for example by the parents for contact or revocation. (**N.B.** New applications to court may be expensive to defend, and the carers would have to bear the cost if not entitled to assistance with legal costs) or if the Local Authority were granted a Supervision Order or maintained support for a period via a Child in Need arrangement following Public Law proceedings.

4.7 Long Term Fostering

For those children whose Final Plan or who remain Looked After by North Tyneside Local Authority an important route to permanence is long-term foster care. Where the permanence plan for the child is longer-term foster care this may be where the current short-term foster placement is assessed to meet the long-term needs of the child for permanence or where a new placement is identified for a child as a result of an assessment and matching process (please see long term foster care guidance in relation to matching) Where long term foster care is recommended then consideration should be given to the best placement to match the child's needs and should be done in consultation with the Fostering Social Worker. Remember not all Foster Carers are approved as long-term carers and if not, they will need to be assessed and approved by the Agency Decision Maker to become a Long Term Foster Carer. The match of a child to a foster carer must be made at fostering panel before it is considered a long- term placement.

Where a child's plan is one of long-term foster care it is important that the child has access to their friends, family or community within which they were brought up and which form part of their identity and their long-term support network. For these reasons' children should be placed in local provision wherever possible in order to provide a wraparound service locally.

Any decision to place a child away from their community should be based on the particular needs of the child and should be agreed via the Resource and Placement Panel arrangements

Long Term foster care has proved to be particularly useful for older children who retain strong links to their birth families and do not want or need the formality of adoption and where the carers wish for the continued involvement of the local authority.

Long-term fostering has the following advantages as a Permanence Plan:

- The local authority retains a role in negotiating between the foster carers and the birth family over issues such as Family Time;
- There is continuing social work support to the child and foster family in a placement that is regularly reviewed to ensure that the child's needs are met;
- It maintains legal links to the birth family who can still play a part in the decision making for the child.

Long-term fostering has the following disadvantages as a Permanence Plan:

- The foster carers do not hold Parental Responsibility, and this may delay or complicate decision making;
- Continuing social work involvement can be an intrusion into the child experiencing 'family life';
- Regular Looked After Reviews which can sometimes be regarded as an intrusion in a long standing and stable placement;
- Stigma attached to the child due to being in care;
- The child is not a legal member of the family. If difficulties arise there may be less willingness to persevere and seek resolution;
- Post care and/or post 18 the carers have no legal responsibility towards the young person.

Support available to enable this permanence option:

- A clear plan of support as outlined in the care plan and the placement and support plan. This should be reviewed regularly at the child's care review;
- The foster carer will have an allocated supervising social worker from the fostering service and will have access to a range of support and training;
- Weekly allowance is paid to meet the costs of caring for the child;
- For those children placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) the costs for the child's placement are agreed between the IFA and North Tyneside Council.

Available legal orders to support this permanence option:

- Care Order.

5. GOOD PRACTICE – WHAT WE SHOULD DO

Supporting reunification with birth or extended family – It is important to clearly communicate to the family what needs to happen to enable the child to return home, and within what timescales, this should be identified within the timeline / trajectory. The importance of family ties and long-term relationships with family, school and community should be fully explored and a regular Network meeting established to allow the timeline to be reviewed and progress of the Care Plan be understood. There should be a plan of permanence identified by four months which will be reviewed at 10 months. This is in keeping with the timeline for Looked After Reviews.

Identifying the best permanence option if reunification is not possible - The care planning process, informed by multi-agency contributions, should identify which permanence option is most likely to meet the needs of the individual child, taking account of his/her wishes and feelings.

Parallel Planning (Multi Planning) - Social workers should always work towards reunification to birth family / return home where it is safe to do so however at the same time developing an alternative Permanence Plan, within strictly limited timescales which should consider alternative family / friends care, long term foster care or long term permanence by way of adoption.

We should always evidence a robust contingency plan should the first plan of reunification not be achievable.

*The Care Plan for the Child on LCS should always identify ‘*What is the chosen plan for this child/young person?*’ There are ten options available from 4.1 to 4.10 within the Care Plan it would be rare that 4.10 ‘Other’ would be selected*.

Placement/Family Time with Siblings – We should always try to place siblings together, this is a protective factor for children and young people both in childhood and through in to adulthood. If this cannot be achieved then we should support Family Time between siblings.

Direct Family Time with birth family members and others who are important in a Child’s life - Family Time must always be for the benefit of the child, not the parents or other relatives.

Indirect Family Time with birth family members and others – this can be in addition to or in place of direct Family Time. This should be agreed by all involved and be in the best interests of the child

Clearly communicating the Permanence Plan – set the permanence plan out clearly and concisely within the Care Plan and make contingency plan clear and concise. Any Care plan should follow the Signs of Safety Ethos and be jargon free so all can

understand it. Good quality Care Plans set out clear, concise statements about intended outcomes and make timescales clear to all.

Always communicate with other key professionals involved in planning for the child such as the Children's Guardian and the IRO.

APPENDIX 1

PERMANENCE OPTIONS

Child Arrangements/Special Guardianship Orders	Adoption	Long Term Fostering
Child needs the security of a legally defined placement with alternative carers, but does not require a lifelong commitment involving a change of identity.	Child's primary need is to belong to a family who will make a lifelong commitment.	Primary need is for a stable, loving family environment whilst there is still a significant level of continued involvement with the birth family.
Child's relation, foster carer or other carer needs to exercise day to day parental responsibility and is prepared to do so as a lifelong commitment.	Child's birth parents are not able or not willing to share parental responsibility in order to meet their child's needs, even though there may be Family Time (contact).	Child has a clear sense of identity with the birth family, whilst needing to be looked after away from home.
There is no need for continuing monitoring and review by the Local Authority, although support services may still need to be arranged.	Child needs an opportunity to develop a new sense of identity whilst being supported to maintain or develop a healthy understanding of their past.	There is need for continuing oversight and monitoring of the child's developmental progress.
Child has a strong attachment to the alternative carers and legally defined permanence is assessed as a positive contribution to their sense of belonging and security.	Child expresses a wish to be adopted.	Birth parents are able and willing to exercise a degree of parental responsibility.