**Stability Meetings,**

Stability meetings are held when it is identified that a foster placement is at risk of disruption and there is the possibility of an unplanned move for a child or young person in care. It should be convened at the request of the child care social worker, fostering social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer or foster carer

The stability meeting aims to understand what can be done to prevent a child or young person moving and to ensure that all avenues of support and intervention have been explored before agreement is given to authorise a move for a child or young person.

The meeting should be convened within 5 working days following it being requested. It is chaired by the social work team manager or the fostering team manager. The child care social worker will have responsibility for arranging the meeting and inviting all relevant professionals working as the team around the child (fostering social worker, carer, in house psychologist, IRO, young person, other relevant professionals). The social worker will need to consider whether it is appropriate for the young person to attend the whole meeting.

**Preparation for the meeting:**

*The chair should familiarise themselves with:*

1. Case chronology.
2. Social work assessments
3. Child’s Care Plan / pathway plan
4. CLA placement planning
5. CLA reviews.
6. Foster carers annual review

**Format for the meeting:**

*The chair should draw together the themes, practice issues and recommendations by considering the following:*

* Brief history of the child/young person’s family circumstances, care history so far including all placements to date.
* What are we worried about, what is making things difficult at this time.
* What is working well and what has been positive and supportive about the child or young person living in this family home.
* What does the child or young person say about where they are living what is good and what is worrying
* What does the foster carer say about life at home what is good and what is worrying for them
* What things are complication the situation
* Discuss and agree a plan to support the child, young person staying in their current home.
* Timescale for reviewing the agreed plan.

A review of the placement stability plan will not exceed the period of three month.

Minutes of the Placement Stability meetings will be placed on the young person’s ICS file, foster carer’s file and inform service provision to the young person and carer. The chair of the meeting is responsible for ensuring that minutes are taken and circulated within 3 working days of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all the participants, the manager of the fostering team and the Children’s Review Panel administrator for inclusion in the panel agenda.