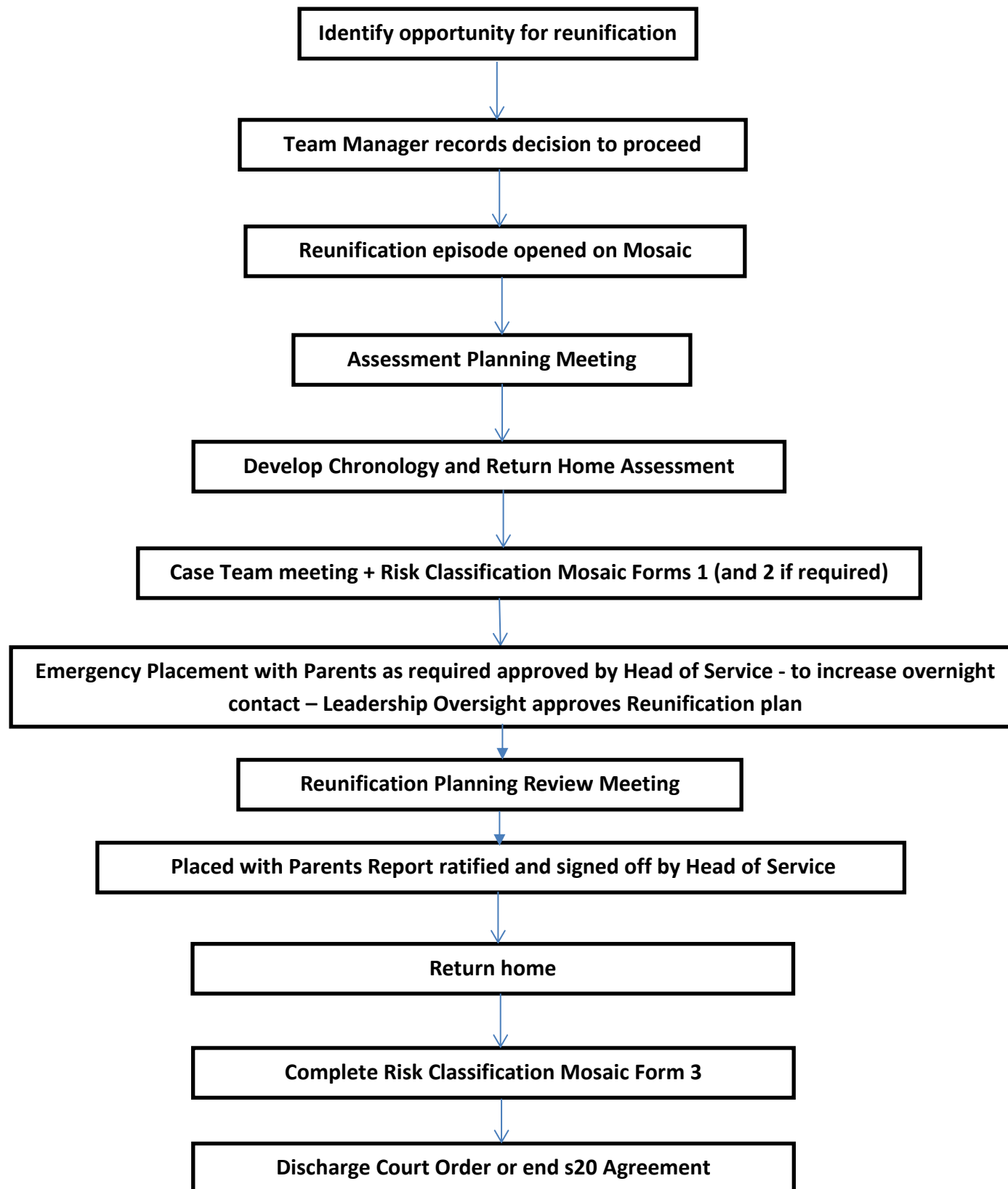


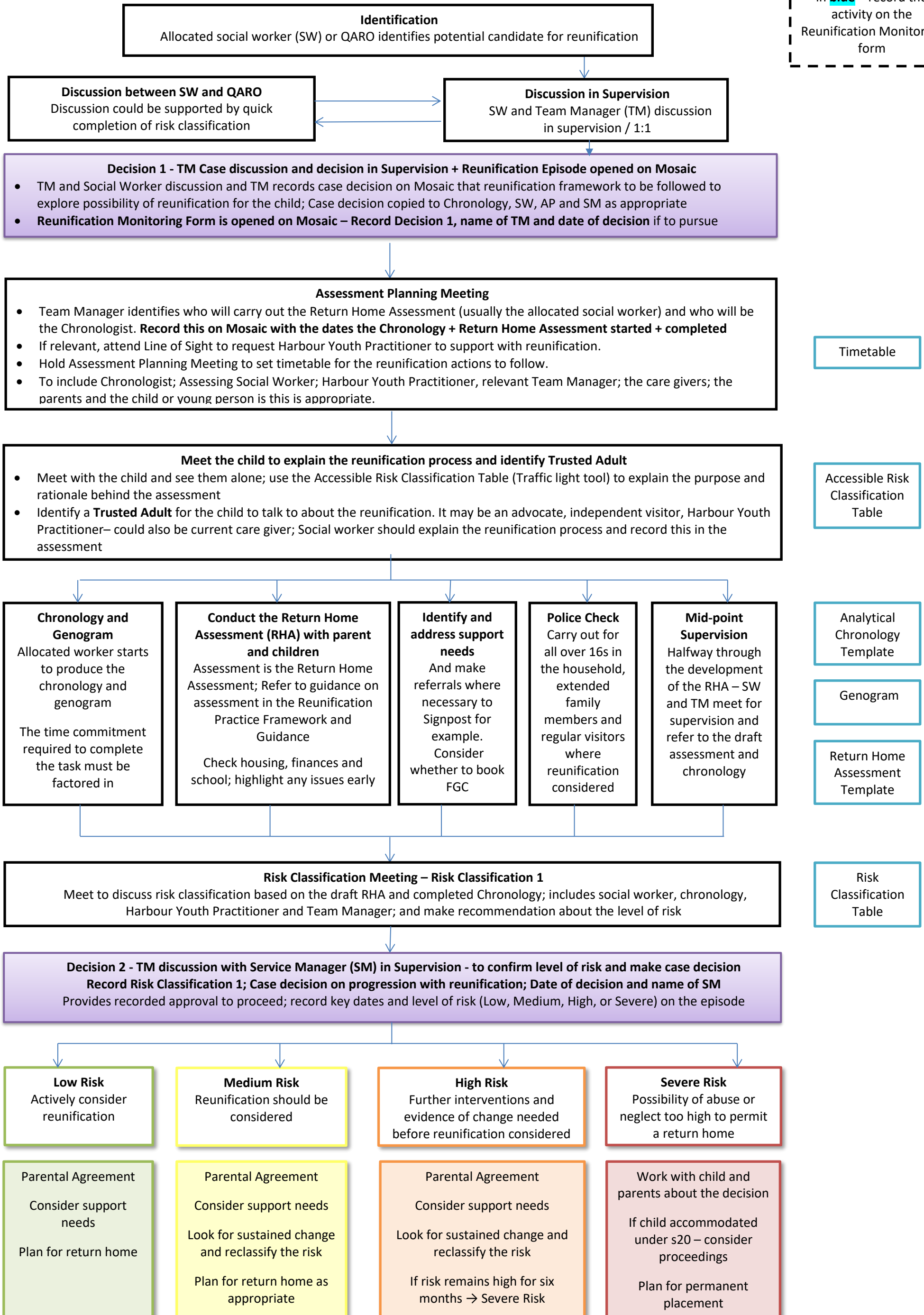
## Reunification Process

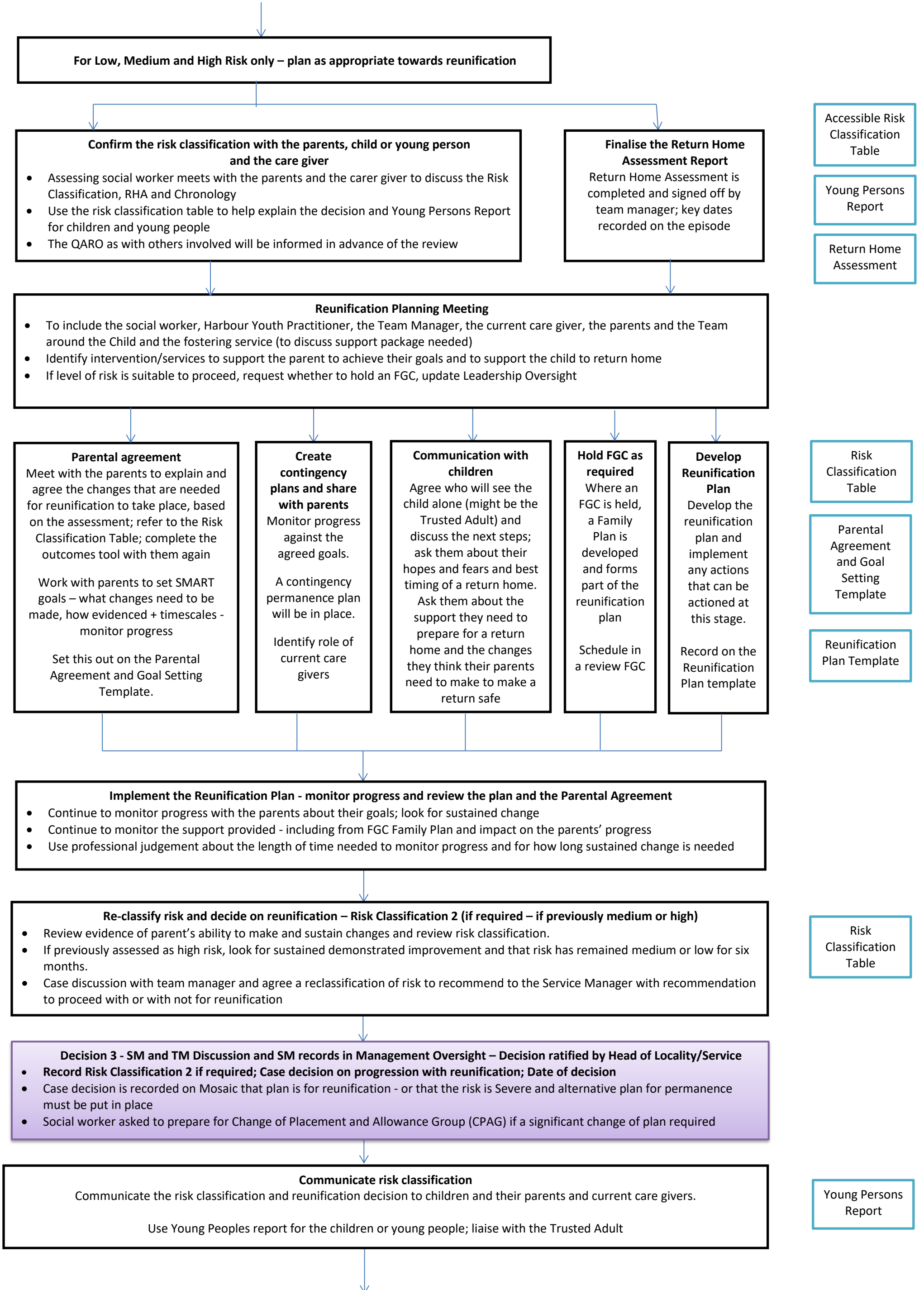
This is a summary of the reunification process. A more detailed workflow is set out on the following pages. For more information regarding reunification please read the following link: [Reunification: an evidence-informed framework for return home practice \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/reunification)



## Detailed Reunification Work flow

Where text is highlighted in **blue** – record the activity on the Reunification Monitoring form





**Emergency Placed with Parents approval from Head of Locality/Service to enable start or increase in overnight contact**  
 Head of Locality/Service approval for Emergency Placed with Parents to enable increase in overnight contact (over 24 hours). Documents needed are the RHA and Placed with Parents front sheet (if required). Case Decision recorded on Mosaic by SM.

**Reunification Planning Review – no longer than three months from the Reunification Planning Meeting**

- To include the assessing (and allocated) social worker, the Team Manager, the current care giver, the parents and the Team around the Child and the placement service ( to discuss support package needed) and the young person depending on their age
- Agree transition planning needed and confirm roles and responsibilities + key timescales for reunification.
- Decide if FGC review needed
- Include schedule of visits – be mindful of key dates for court process
- If child was s20 before reunification, incorporate the goals within the Child in Need plan

**Update Parental Agreement**  
Update the parental agreement

**Hold FGC review as required**  
Plan the specific details about the return home and any practical issues to address  
Consider, transition, bedrooms, family changes, continuity and feelings

**Increase contact and gradual return home**  
Ensure child is consulted and timing and manner of return home  
Carry out visits - announced and unannounced.

**Update the Reunification Plan**  
Confirm the support and services that will be in place when the child is home  
Confirm with Team around the Child how services will be provided

**Prepare documents for CPAG and present at panel**  
Documents required are RHA; Chronology; Decisions from last CLA Review; Parental Agreement; Reunification Plan; Placed with Parents front sheet

**CPAG and Child in Care Review**

- Present with required documents at CPAG; Adjourn CIC review as required to fit with CPAG.
- Provide updates to CIC Review and to Placement Service (to give adequate notice to care givers)
- Hold CIC review if this has been adjourned
- Record if reunification plan recommended at CPAG and forward to Corporate Director for agreement; As required, if Placement with Parents regulations been adhered to; and date of panel**

**When child is living back at home - monitor and review**

- At point of child return home, change legal status as required; **Record date of when child actual returned home**
- Support services should continue for at least 12 months post reunification and provided by the Team around the Child
- Visits announced and unannounced by social worker minimum – frequency no less than statutory requirement
- Child must be seen alone each time and at times out of the home
- Team around the Child meetings at three months between CIC reviews or Pathway Plan reviews which continue at every six months
- For children on a care order, CIC reviews will continue to be chaired by QARO
- For children formerly on s20, the first review after returning home will be chaired by the QARO; then subsequent reviews will be undertaken by the Team Manager or the social worker as part of the Child in Need plan dependent on the status of the child
- Placement details will be updated on Framework
- SDQs will continue to be carried out at a frequency of no less than the statutory minimum

**Re-classify risk – Risk Classification 3**

- TM and Social worker should formally reclassify the risks again at six months; **Record Risk Classification 3 and date carried out**
- If risks remain low, continue with the plan
- If risks have increased – discuss with SM
- Hold a Team around the Child meeting to review parental goals and support provided to support risk being reduced to low

**Social work involvement – how long this continues**

- Social work involvement continues until parents have sustained low risk for at least six months. Any withdrawal of support should be tapered and gradual, signpost to Universal and Targeted services
- Complete the *outcomes tool* and SDQ after the child has been back home for six months and add goals to CiN Plan

**Rescinding of care order**

- Decision made about timescale for care order to be rescinded; Discharge – chronology, statement, assessments
- Liaise with CAFCASS and the courts to ensure this is carried out in most efficient timescale possible

**Complete the Reunification Monitoring form by stating Outcome of Reunification Activity**

- Record Outcome of Reunification Activity including other reasons for exit part way through the process and date of exit part way through. When all recording completed, click Section completed for each section and save and close the form.**