**PP4**

**[Social Work Assessment Report]**

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| **PLACEMENT WITH PARENTS REPORT** |

**\*\*CONFIDENTIAL\*\***

This report must be prepared to support any placement of a child, on a Care Order or Interim Care Order, with a parent or person with Parental Responsibility or person who held a Child Arrangements Order specifying with whom the child is to live immediately before the Care Order was made, for more than 24 hours, including a placement for residential assessment. Children may also be placed with parents having acquired Looked After status following a Remand to Local Authority Accommodation (s23 Children Act 1989; The Placement of Children with Parents etc Regulations 1991).

**Date:**

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| **Name of child:** | **DOB:** |
| **Date of Care Order:** | |
| **Name and address of current carers:** | |

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| **Name of parent(s)/person with PR:** | **DOB:** |
| **Parent(s)’ address:** | |

**TIMESCALE OF PLACEMENT: Immediate / Planned (delete as appropriate)**

*\*\*Please consult guidance if proposed placement is to start immediately\*\**

**Proposed start date of placement:**

**Summary of child’s history and why the child was received into care:**

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**Summary of the plan for the child when he/she was originally received into care:**

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| **Summary of parent(s)’ capacity to meet the identified needs of the child, specifically** |
| * ***Parents’ capacity to meet the child’s physical needs and appropriate health/medical care:*** |
| * ***Parents’ ability to protect the child adequately from harm, including any person that is a risk of harm to the child:*** |
| * ***Suitability of home conditions (include date the proposed placement was inspected):*** |
| * ***Parents’ ability to meet the child’s emotional needs and encourage a positive sense of self, including any particular needs arising from religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural/linguistic background and/or any disability:*** |
| * ***Parents’ ability to promote the child’s learning and intellectual development:*** |
| * ***Parents’ ability to manage the child’s behaviour:*** |
| * ***Parents’ ability to provide stability:*** |

**Please include the outcomes of any assessment, consultation and/or enquiries made (attach any relevant assessments to this report):**

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**Details of the parent(s)’ state of health (physical, emotional and mental), the parents’ medical history, including current or past issues of domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health problems and criminal offending – please reference enquiries made with GP and police checks:**

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**Identity of other person(s) living at the parent(s)’ household:**

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| **Name:** | **DOB:** |
| **Name:** | **DOB:** |
| **Name:** | **DOB:** |

**Summary of the circumstances of all other adult members of the household, including their state of health, history of any domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health problems and criminal offending – please reference police checks:**

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**The aims and objectives of the proposed placement, details of the level of delegated responsibility the local authority consider appropriate and long term care plan for the child:**

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**Any identified areas of risk involved in the placement and proposals on how the risks will be managed:**

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**The support and services to be provided to the family and child:**

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**Details of supervision of the placement and the ability of the parent to work effectively with the local authority:**

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**Contingency plan in the event of a placement breakdown:**

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**Child’s view:**

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**Parent(s)’ view:**

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**View of Independent Reviewing Officer (if allocated) and/or any other professional working with the family relevant to this report:**

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**SIGNED: DATE:**

Social Worker

**SIGNED: DATE:**

Team Manager

**HEAD OF SERVICE DECISION AND REASONS**

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**APPROVAL: Yes\* / No**

**SIGNED: DATE:**

Head of Service

**\*If approved, consideration should be made as to whether Care Order is still appropriate. The Local Authority and parents may agree to apply to discharge the Care Order and if so, such an agreement must include the level of support and supervision to be provided by the Local Authority after the Care Order has been discharged, and the level of co-operation by the parents.**

**\*\*If approved, in addition to this report, the social worker will prepare a placement plan and working agreement to outline the expectations of the local authority and the parents for the duration of the placement. This will specifically cover the following:**

1. **Details of the support and services to be provided to the parents and the child during the placement;**
2. **The obligation on the parents to notify the Local Authority of any relevant change in circumstances including any intention to change address, any changes in the household in which the child lives and any serious incident involving the child;**
3. **The obligation on the parents to ensure that any information relating to the child or the child’s family or any other person given in confidence to the parents in connection with the placement is kept confidential and that such information is not disclosed to any person without the consent of the Local Authority;**
4. **The circumstances in which it is necessary to obtain the prior approval of the Local Authority for the child to live in a household other than that of the parents;**
5. **The circumstances in which the placement of the child with the parents pending completion of the assessment of suitability will be terminated if the decision following completion of the assessment is not to confirm the placement.**

**GUIDANCE (See** [TRIX PLACEMENT WITH PARENTS](http://wiltshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_with_parents.html?zoom_highlight=placement+with+parents#ii)**)**

**SITUATIONS COVERED BY THE REGULATIONS**

1. **Rehabilitation to a Parent**

Where the decision has been made during a formal review meeting to consider returning a child to the day-to-day care of a parent on a permanent basis, a full assessment process must be completed before this decision can be finalised and the child returned home. Given the statutory checks involved, it is unlikely that this process can be completed in less than six weeks.

1. **Regular Staying Contact**

Where the child spends in excess of 23 hours in the care of their parent for contact purposes, a full assessment must be completed prior to the stay.

1. **Holidays**

Some children do not have regular staying contact but do accompany their parents on short holidays. A full assessment must be completed. Where approval is already given for staying contact at the parental home but a holiday is to be taken elsewhere, the assessment should be updated to include details of the new destination and the people resident there.

1. **Assessments During Interim Care Applications**

Occasionally Children’s Services may initiate care proceedings and obtain an Interim Care Order but take the decision to allow the child to continue to reside with parents whilst a full assessment is undertaken. The child will then remain in placement whilst the assessment is completed. Urgent written approval should be sought from Head of Service, prior to the plan being presented to the Court.

### SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS

Where the relevant plan provide for a series of short term placements of a child with a parent, the requirements as to consultation, enquiries and checks can be carried out once only rather than every time a placement is made, provided that:

* All the placements take place within a twelve months period;
* No single placement is for a period of more than four weeks; and
* The total duration of the placements does not exceed 90 days.

If a series of short-term placements is part of a longer-term rehabilitation plan, further consultation and approval must be obtained before the rehabilitation plan is extended and/or the child is returned to the parent’s full-time care.

### SOCIAL WORK VISITING

The child's social worker must visit the child in the placement within one week of the placement and thereafter every six weeks.

If the child is placed with parents pending assessment social work visits must take place at least once a week until the first Looked After Review, thereafter at intervals of not more than 6 weeks.

### ENDING OF PLACEMENT

Wherever possible the decision to end a placement should be made at a Looked After Review and the ending should take place in a planned way.

In emergencies, the social worker must discuss the case with his/her manager, who will make the decision. Legal advice should always be sought. The Care Order gives the local authority power to enable the child to be removed by the social worker but this power should only be used after obtaining legal advice; the use of other orders might be appropriate in some circumstances.

All those notified of the placement starting should be notified, in writing, when it ends; preferably notifications should be made prior to the ending, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

A letter should also be sent to the parents and child explaining why the decision was made.

**IMMEDIATE PLACEMENTS**

Head of Service can approve an immediate placement without the necessary consultation and checks having been made provided that:

1. There are exceptional circumstances which justify an immediate placement and is consistent with the child’s welfare;
2. There has been an interview with the proposed carer who agrees to the placement and provides as much of the assessment information as can be readily ascertained at the interview;
3. The accommodation has been inspected; and
4. Information has been obtained about and the social worker seeks to meet the other people in the household. (This is particularly relevant to identifying issues such as domestic violence and substance misuse which may impact on the child's safety);
5. The assessment and the review of the child's case are completed within 10 working days of the child being placed;
6. The decision on placement is made and approved within 10 working days of the assessment being completed and:
   * If the decision is to confirm the placement, the Placement Plan is reviewed (and if appropriate amended);
   * If the decision is not confirm the placement, the placement is terminated.

The reasons for a decision to place a child on this basis must be fully recorded, signed by the Head of Service and placed on the child's case record.

The required consultation, assessment and enquiries for planned placements, as set out in must then be completed and presented to the Head of Service as set out above.

A ‘Working Agreement’ should be completed by the practitioner with the parents to clarify the expectations of the parent(s) and ensure the child is safeguarded and their needs are met during this temporary phase before the Looked After Review.

**HD**

**03.01.2017**