

Permanency?



Every child needs love, belonging, support. For foster children this means not only love, belonging and support but also stability, consistency, trust and high expectations'
Anne Longfield OBE Children's Commissioner Feb 2018

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What is Permanency?

Permanence is achieved when a child belongs legally to the family in which she/he lives.

For most children, this will be with their own birth parents without the need for a legal order.

Not all children can return can safely live with their parent/s or return to their parent/s after a period in care.

In these situations social workers, guided by the courts will decide the best option to make sure they are safe, stable and can grow throughout their childhood in a 'permanent' family.

*Permanency is not a process, a plan, or a placement-permanency is a family relationship that is intended to last a lifetime.
- Frey, Spring, 2004*

What does Permanency Means for Children?

Permanence for children has three particular aspects:

1. Legal

e.g. staying with birth parents who have Parental Responsibility; Adoption; or Court Orders that specify the arrangement within a legal context.

2. Psychological

The child feels attached to an adult who provides a stable, loving and secure relationship;

3. Physical

A stable home environment within a familiar neighbourhood and community where the child's identity needs are met.

What is best for each child or young person will depend on individual factors

Legal Permanency Options

Adoption

When a child is adopted, their new parents take on full parental responsibility for their care as their legal guardian.

The vast majority of children adopted in the UK are aged between 1- and 4-years-old.

Child Arrangements Orders

In respect of permanence options, a child arrangements order decides where a child lives and will give the person parental responsibility for as long as the order continues.

Special Guardianship

Special guardianship orders (SGOs) are usually granted by courts to a member of the child's family, and in much smaller numbers to an unrelated foster carer who has been caring for the child. The special guardian has the care of the child and acquires parental responsibility together with birth parents and anyone else who has parental responsibility. Children under SGOs are not in the care system.

Legal Permanency Options

Long Term Fostering

Fostering has a formal status as a permanence option for children looked after. However, long-term fostering is different from adoption and other forms of permanence because the local authority in which the child lives remains the child's 'corporate parent'. Foster carers never have parental responsibility for a child that they care for, unlike adopters.
long-term.

Connected Persons

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Permanency in Bracknell Forest

At the end of May there are 155 children looked after children in Bracknell

22 children are currently in long term fostering placements providing them with a sense of security and belonging.

- They remain looked after, regular visits and statutory reviews. Life journey work is completed

During 2018/19 8 children were made subject to Special Guardianship Orders

- The Local Authority do not share responsibility for the child any longer although sustain a support plan giving the carer access to a suite of support services including peer groups and training.

During 2018/19 5 children were made subject to Placement Orders

- Giving the Local Authority permission to place the child for adoption. On children being matched to adopters and an Adoption Order being in place the Local Authority no longer shares parental responsibility

Special Guardianship Over time

In the last 3 years **42** children (32 families) have been made the subject of special guardianship orders (**2016/17 – 21; 2017/18 – 13; 2018/19 – 8**)

As of 31st March 2019 19 children in 14 families subject to a special guardianship have additional support in place

In total **53 families** are being supported financially with a weekly allowance

Any Questions?