

Tees Valley Early Permanence Information Sharing Protocol

1. This Information Sharing Protocol is established to assist in the principles, parameters and processes when undertaking early permanence placements in Tees Valley.
2. This document is intended to provide an overview of principles attached to information sharing in Early Permanence Placements. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the Table attached as Annex A, which provides a protocol to provide guidance of general application to inform practical questions as to whom may share information, with whom information may be shared, what information shall be shared, and the rationale for the sharing of information.

A. Introduction

1. A looked after child is a child accommodated by a local authority pursuant to s.20 CA 1989, in the care of a local authority pursuant to s.31 CA 1989, or a child whom a local authority is authorised to place for adoption under s.19/s.20 ACA 2002.
2. Part III Children Act 1989, supplemented by the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and the statutory guidance The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review (Dfe: June 2015) sets out the duties of local authorities towards children it looks after. Chapter 1 of the Statutory Guidance summarises the principles and duties towards such children. Primary among the duties that a local authority has towards a looked after child are the requirements to prepare care and placement plans to provide for the child's immediate, and long-term care ("a plan for permanence").
3. S.22C Children Act 1989 sets out the approach a local authority should take in determining which arrangements should be considering for the placement of a looked after child.
4. The Children and Families Act 2014 amended s.22CA CA 1989 in respect of these duties in circumstances where:

- *The local authority is “**considering adoption**” for the child¹. i.e.: where the local authority have identified based on the evidence available and on its assessment of the case, the long term permanence plan for a named child is likely to be adoption (Notwithstanding that the local authority is likely still to be considering other outcomes for the child, and may still be attempting rehabilitation with family, although this will be thought highly unlikely to succeed, and adoption is the most likely outcome”;* or
 - *The local authority is **satisfied that a child ought to be placed for adoption** but is not authorised to place a child for adoption i.e. a case where the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) has made the decision that a child’s care plan should be adoption, but no placement order nor parental consent to the placement of a child for adoption yet obtained.*
5. These amendments reflect the recognition that where there is a likelihood that a plan of permanence by way of adoption will be ultimately the approved plan for the child, there is manifest advantage for the child to be placed with persons whom the child is to live throughout their life without disruption and delay. This is known as “early permanence.”
 6. Accordingly, the amendments made by the Children and Families Act 2014 provide that in such circumstances the local authority must, in the event that it is decided that it is inconsistent with the child’s welfare or not reasonably practicable to place the child with either a parent or connected person, consider making early permanence arrangements for the child by way of placing them with approved prospective adopters who may be temporarily approved as foster carers for that child.
 7. In such arrangements, a child will not be “placed for adoption” until such time as the court grants a placement order for the child, or a parent provides formal consent to the placing of a child for adoption. It is inherent within the arrangements that the plan of adoption is not guaranteed.
 8. Accordingly, the child may be placed with a carers whom may care for him or her as a foster carer for a relatively unexceptional period of their life - a few months of early childhood - or as the child’s adoptive parents for the rest of his or her life.

¹ A local authority will be normally be “considering adoption” where a decision is made at a statutory review: see below.

9. It is recognised that a particular area of concern for those involved in placements – for both practitioners and families – is the question of the sharing of information for the facilitation of any such enquiries and placements. This document is intended to set out a basis and approach for information sharing in matters of early permanence, to assist transparency and sharing understanding for practitioners and families.

B. Legal Basis and General Principles

10. Duties in respect of permanence planning for children are contained within:

Statute

- Children Act 1989 (as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014)
- Adoption and Children Act 2002

Statutory Instruments

- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, amended (2013)
- Adoption Agency Regulations 2005
- Family Procedure Rules 2010

Statutory Guidance²

- Statutory Guidance on Adoption: For Local Authorities, Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Adoption Support Agencies (DfE: June 2013) [hereafter “the Adoption Statutory Guidance”]
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (DfE: June 2015)³ (hereafter “the Care Planning Statutory Guidance”]

Guidance

- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services To Children, Young People, Parents and Carer (HM Government: July 2018)

² Statutory guidance is guidance issued under s.7 Local Authority Social Services Act 1970: the guidance must be complied with by local authorities unless there are exceptional reasons which justify a departure.

³ Incorporating Early Permanence Placements and Approval of Prospective Adopters As Foster Carers: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and Adoption Agencies (DfE: June 2014)

- The Role Of Fostering For Adoption In Achieving Early Permanence For Children: Good Practice Guidance (CoramBAAF: 2017)

Principles of Data Sharing, Consultation and Consent

11. The Data Protection Act 2018 applies to information sharing general. HM Government has produced guidance, [Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) (HM Government: July 2018), which although orientated around safeguarding provides a helpful distillation of data protection and information sharing principles generally in relation to social care. In particular, the guidance emphasises:

- The need for openness and honesty with an individual (and/or their family where appropriate) about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- The need, where possible, to share information with consent and, where possible, to respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared.
- The need to keep a record of decisions and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom, and for what purpose.

12. The Guidance reiterates the following principles of information sharing of general application, being that information sharing is:

- Necessary and proportionate
- Relevant
- Adequate
- Accurate
- Timely
- Secure
- Recorded

C. Overview of Early Permanence

13. A looked after child is a child accommodated by a local authority pursuant to s.20 CA 1989, in the care of a local authority pursuant to a care order or interim care order under s.31/s.38 CA 1989, or a child whom a local authority is authorised to place for adoption under s.19/s.20 ACA 2002.
14. The local authority does not hold parental responsibility for a child where the child is accommodated under s.20, although there will inevitable delegation of a persons parental responsibility to the local authority and onwards to carers while the child is accommodated.
15. Where a child is in the care of a local authority by virtue of a care or interim care order, it will have parental responsibility for the child and to the extent that the local authority is satisfied that is necessary to do so to safeguard or promote the child's welfare, may determine the extent to which a parent/person with parental responsibility may meet that parental responsibility for him.
16. Where a child is subject to an interim care order, they will be subject to court proceedings and the Family Court judge has ultimate oversight of decisions made. The child will also have a children's guardian.
17. The duties of a local authority towards a child it looks after are set out in Part III Children Act 1989. S.22C CA 1989 sets out the approach that a local authority must take to decide upon arrangements for the placement of a child it is looking after.
18. When looking after a child and as part of its assessment and planning, it is, as reflected in guidance and regulation, essential to consult all those concerned with the child. Further, before making any decision with respect to a child whom they are looking after or propose to look after, section 22(4) provides that the responsible authority should as far as is reasonably practicable ascertain the wishes and feeling of:
 - the child;
 - the child's parents;
 - any person who is not a parent of the child but had parental responsibility for him or her;and

- any other person whose wishes and feelings the authority consider to be relevant; regarding the matters to be decided.

19. S.22C(3) CA 1989 sets out that a local authority must first seek to make arrangements for a child to live with a parent or other person with parental responsibility, unless this is either inconsistent with the child's welfare or not reasonably practicable.
20. If this is not possible, s.22(6-7) CA 1989 provides that the local authority must then, in the following order of preference, seek to place:
 - a. with a relative, friend or other connected person who has been approved as a local authority foster parent.
 - b. With a foster parent who is not a relative, friend or other connected person
 - c. In a registered children's home
 - d. In "other arrangements".
21. Additionally s.22(8) includes provision that the placement must be such that it allows the child to live near their home, does not disrupt their education or training, and enables the child to live with any sibling whom is also looked after.
22. The Children and Families Act 2014 added to the Act subsections 9A-9C. These subsections disapply some of the above duties in circumstances where the local authority is "considering adoption"⁴ for the child, or "are satisfied that the child ought to be placed for adoption" but are not authorised to do so (there being neither a placement order, nor parental consent under the provisions of the Adoption Children Act 2002)⁵.
23. They provide that in such circumstances, if the local authority is satisfied that it is either not consistent with the child's welfare, or not reasonably practicable to place with either a parent/person with parental responsibility, or a connected person, the local authority **must** consider placing the child with a *"local authority foster parent who has been approved as a prospective adopter."*

⁴ A local authority/adoption agency begins formally considering adoption when such a decision is ratified at a looked after review.

⁵ A local authority/adoption agency is "satisfied that a child ought to be placed for adoption" when such decision is made by the Agency Decision Maker following consideration of the CPR.

24. As reflected within the statutory guidance, “considering adoption” is not defined within either legislation or regulations. The non-exhaustive examples are however provided of when a local authority may be considering adoption⁶:

- where the local authority is trying to rehabilitate the child with the birth parents, there are no suitable family or friends carers and adoption is the best option for the child if rehabilitation does not succeed. This scenario is often known as concurrent planning;
- where the local authority has decided at the permanence planning stage that adoption should be the plan for the child. The permanence planning stage is normally by the second statutory review, which is held no later than four months after the child enters care, but can be much earlier. The local authority must be able to demonstrate to the ADM and the court why the child cannot return home, why the child has not been placed with family or friends, why no other permanence plan is appropriate for the child and why adoption is the right plan for the child;
- in cases where the birth parents have indicated that they are likely to consent to the child being placed for adoption, but have not yet consented;

25. Similarly, non-exhaustive examples of where a local authority will not be considering adoption include:

- the child is likely to return home;
- they are aware that there are family or friends who can care for the child;
- a permanence placement other than adoption is more appropriate for the child.

26. A local authority/adoption agency formally considers adoption for a child once a decision has been made at the child’s statutory review, or in the case of a child relinquished for adoption, as soon as the local authority or voluntary adoption agency is considering the parent’s request that an adoption plan be followed.⁷

Forms of early permanence

27. Early Permanence may take different forms.

⁶ Ibid, para 3.153, p82

⁷ Adoption Statutory Guidance, para 2.20, p37

28. It may involve the placement with an individual(s) who has been approved as a local authority foster carer for children generally under the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 and is also an approved prospective adopter for children generally under the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 for children generally. **This is known as ‘concurrent planning’.** In such circumstances, there will likely be two realistic plans for the child: a rehabilitation to their birth parent, or alternatively adoption.
29. It may also involve placement with an individual(s) who is approved as prospective adopter for children generally under the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 and who have been temporarily approved as a foster carer for the specific child in their care. **This is known as ‘fostering for adoption’.** Such placement and temporarily approval is provided for through the provisions of s.22C(9)(c) Children Act 1989 with the carer being approved as a foster carer under Regulation 25A Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
30. Cases involving “concurrent planning” will ordinarily be those where there are two identified realistic plans for the child: a rehabilitation to the care of their parents, or alternatively permanency through adoption. In cases of concurrent planning, the child is placed with the individual on the basis that if the rehabilitation plan is unsuccessful, the child may remain in their care in the long term.
31. Fostering for Adoption placements concern situations:

*“...where a local authority identifies that, based on the evidence available and on its assessment of the case, the long term permanence plan for a named child is **likely** to be adoption. The local authority is likely still to be considering other outcomes for the child, and may still be attempting rehabilitation with family, although this will be thought **highly unlikely** to succeed, and adoption is the most **likely** outcome. The local authority will already have considered wider family and friends as potential carers for the child and concluded that they are unlikely to be able to care for the child. It is possible that suitable family members may be identified or come forward after the child has been placed, and the authority will need to consider them should this occur. This is because the local authority has a continuing duty to place the child in the most appropriate placement for that child...”⁸*

⁸ Care Planning Statutory Guidance, para 3.143 p80

32. As further described within the guidance⁹:

“Placing children with foster carers who could become their adoptive parents offers many benefits to the child; it is the adults taking the risk that the placement will not be permanent. But it will not be appropriate for all children for whom the local authority is considering adoption. Nor will it be appropriate for all adopters, many of whom will not be able to manage the potential return of the child to birth parents or other family or friends carers.”

33. In addition, there may be circumstances where the local authority is considering the situation of a child whose elder siblings have been adopted. In such circumstances, consideration may be given to the proposed placement of the child his sibling’s adoptive parents with foster carers by virtue of their as connected persons under s.22C of the Children Act 1989.

34. The risk to the adults arises from the fact that in early permanence placements the child is not placed for adoption. The carers role is that of foster carer. If the court on hearing an application for a placement order is ultimately not satisfied that nothing else will do to secure the child’s welfare throughout their life the child will be removed from that foster placement notwithstanding the impact upon the child or carer. This includes in circumstances where a suitable relative emerges at a late stage. It is therefore imperative that social work practice in each and every case is of a good standard.

Obtaining Information

35. Permeating local authority duties towards assessment and planning are the needs to obtain and share information in respect of the background, history, wishes and needs of a looked after child.

36. When a local authority begins looking after a child, it must establish and maintain a written case record for the child to include (1) the child’s care plan, (2) reports in respect of the child’s health, (3) any document created or considered as part of any assessment of the child’s needs

⁹ Ibid, para 3.156 p83

or on any review of his case, (d) any court orders, (e) details of any arrangements pertaining to the discharge of the local authority's functions by independent agencies.¹⁰

37. Regulation 49A CPPCR provides that the local authority "may transfer a copy of [the child's] case record (or part of that record) to an adoption agency when it considers this to be in the interests of [the child] and a written record shall be kept of any such transfer."

38. Similarly, when a local authority/adoption agency makes the decision to "consider adoption" for a child, the adoption agency must set up a confidential case record place on it prescribed information and documents, including information and reports obtained by the agency and the child permanence report.¹¹

39. The information to be obtained within the permanence report is set out within the Adoption Agency Regulations. It includes detailed information about the child and his family as specified in Schedule 1 to the AAR; a summary written by the agency medical advisor as to the state of the child's health, health history and any health care; the wishes and feelings of the child, parents or guardian; an analysis of the options for care; and any other information which the agency considers relevant.

40. As reflected in the guidance, it is important to explain to the parent *"that any information obtained will be safeguarded, and the circumstances in which it will be shared with others, including the adoption panel, prospective adopter when the child is placed, the court, and, at the appropriate time, the child."*¹²

Sharing Information

41. Information sharing must be necessary and proportionate, which will be informed by the purpose in the information sharing.

42. In early permanence there are two principle reasons for the sharing of information:

¹⁰ CPPCR (E) 2010 Reg 49

¹¹ Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 Regulation 12.

¹² Adoption Statutory Guidance, para 2.36, p41

- To identify and match prospective adopters who may be suitable to adopt the child
- To enable a child's carers to enable them to properly and adequately meet their needs within the context of their placement plan.

Identifying and matching children with prospective adopters

43. Reflecting the Agency Regulations, local authorities/adoption agencies should commence family finding as soon as it reaches a decision that it is considering adoption for the child.

44. The statutory guidance on Adoption records that an adoption agency

“should have begun trying to identify a suitable adoptive family before the agency’s decision was made that the child should be placed for adoption, and/or before consent to placement has been given or a placement order obtained. However, in cases where parental consent is unlikely to be forthcoming, and especially where there is doubt about whether a placement order will be granted, it may not be appropriate to do more than make general enquiries about the likely availability of suitable prospective adopters before the agency is authorised to place the child for adoption. The intensity of the search increases once the decision has been made.”¹³

45. Sufficient information will be required by the adoption agency:

- (1) to be satisfied both that an early permanence placement is appropriate
- (2) to identify and match with early permanence carers
- (3) to provide sufficient information for the identified carers for them to make an informed choice as to whether they wish to proceed with the match.

46. The purpose of an early permanence placement is that it is one where a child may reside throughout their life, if ultimately it is authorised.

47. Chapter 4 of the Adoption Statutory Guidance provides a detailed overview of the principles and approach to be adopted in matching and proposing placements between a child and their prospective adopters.

¹³ Adoption Statutory Guidance, p82

48. The guidance and regulations emphasis the importance of full information to be shared with a prospective adopter with whom the child is to be placed. As stated within the statutory guidance¹⁴:

“Once the agency has identified the family it considers most appropriate as a ‘match’ for the child, it will need to comply with the requirements of AAR 31. The first stage is to provide the prospective adopter with a copy of the child’s permanence report and other information the agency considers relevant. This could include reports or summaries of reports on the child’s health, education or special needs ... The prospective adopter needs to understand and confirm in writing that they will keep this information confidential and return it to the agency if the placement does not proceed. There is no requirement to conceal the child’s identity from the prospective adopter; indeed to do so runs the risk that an existing acquaintance between the prospective adopter and members of the birth family will not be discovered until after the match has been agreed.”

*“It is essential that agencies make available to the prospective adopter all material facts about the child that may be placed in their care. **It is unacceptable for agencies to withhold information about a child and provide a picture that bears little relation to the reality.** [emphasis added] The information provided must include details of the child’s background. This includes the history of any abuse or neglect and/or sexualised behaviour on the part of the child, their history in care, including behaviour and comprehensive information about physical and mental health development, and the implications for the future. Such information is a vital tool for prospective adopters if they are to be able to make an informed decision as to whether to accept the placement of the child and, once the child is placed, to understand and deal effectively with the child’s particular needs.”*

“The agency must meet the prospective adopter to discuss the proposed placement, be ready to answer their questions and provide, as far as possible, whatever further information they need. It is good practice for the medical adviser to meet with the prospective adopter to share all appropriate health information, to discuss the needs of the children with whom they are matched, and to provide a written report of this meeting. To comply with the regulations, the agency must ensure that it records the prospective adopter’s views about the proposed placement, including any view that they have about proposed contact arrangements.” (p89)

¹⁴ Adoption Statutory Guidance, p88

“The regulation does not require the agency to include in the report the views of the child about the proposed placement, but where this has been discussed with the child, and particularly where child already know the prospective (perhaps as their current foster carers), this will be relevant information to be included in the report. In appropriate circumstances the proposed placement will also have been discussed with the child’s birth family and their views should be included in the report.”

49. In Re T (A Child) (Early Permanence Placement) [2015] EWCA 983, Sir James Munby stated a para 67:

“I merely note what I would hope is obvious: that in every case of an early permanence placement there must, from the outset and at every stage thereafter, be complete frankness coupled with a robust appraisal of the realities.”

Looked After Children

50. Where a child has been placed in early permanence arrangements, a second circumstance where information sharing about the child may arise relates to the fact that the child in an early permanence placement will be placed with foster carers, whether under concurrent planning arrangements for fostering for adoption.

51. Accordingly, in common with any looked after child their carer requires sufficient information to enable them to properly and adequately meet their needs within the context of their placement plan.

52. The placement plan is a crucial document which should ordinarily be produced prior to the child being placed and in any event within five working days following placement. must include detail such as:

- (1) How on a day to day basis C will be cared for and C’s welfare will be safeguarded and promoted by the appropriate person,*
- (2) Any arrangements made for contact [...]*
- (3) The arrangements made for C’s health (including physical, emotional and mental health) and dental care including [...]*

(4) Arrangements made for Cs education and training

53. As reflected within the statutory guidance¹⁵:

3.183 The 2010 Regulations set out the information which must be provided in the placement plan [regulation 9 and Schedule 2]. The carer will need to know about the child's family, his/her race, religion and culture, the language spoken at home and any disabilities or other special needs. The carer will generally need to know the circumstances leading to the child becoming looked after, and the child's previous experiences both before and during the care episode. In particular, the carer needs to know what the long term plan is for the child and its timeframe, what the objectives are for the specific placement being offered and how these fit within the care plan. The carer should be given a copy of the care plan when it is completed and be clear about his/her role in implementing it. Within the context of the care plan the carer needs a realistic estimate of how long the placement is expected to last.

3.184 Many children find it difficult to settle in a strange environment, feelings which are likely to be exacerbated if the start of the care episode has been rushed or traumatic. Carers can help children feel at home if they can maintain some of the routines to which they have been accustomed. It is therefore helpful to record information about bedtimes, mealtimes and so on, which can be passed on to carers.

54. Furthermore, under the care planning regulations the information is to be recorded as to the child's personal history, religious persuasion, cultural and linguistic background, and racial origin. The child's plan must include details as to any delegation as to: (a) medical and dental treatment, (b) education, (c) leisure and home life, (d) faith and religious observance, (e) use of social media, (4) any other matters considered appropriate.

55. The statutory guidance gives further helpful guidance as to information sharing, which will – as in any case – apply to children in early permanence placements as in any other placement. This is detailed at paragraph 3.228 at page 98¹⁶, emphasising the importance of information being shared:

3.228 The social worker should discuss with the parents, any other previous carers and with children (having regard to their age and understanding), the information which is to be given to a carer and why. Where there is a special reason for withholding significant information,

¹⁵ Care Planning Statutory Guidance, p83

¹⁶ Care Planning Statutory Guidance, p98

the reason should be recorded. In some circumstances less information, about the child's history for example, may be needed in connection with placements made within a planned series of short term breaks. There is no requirement for written information to be issued when a child is placed under the emergency provisions, but authorities should make sure that the emergency or temporarily approved foster carer has sufficient information, including health information, to keep the child and other people in the household safe. All parties should be aware that if the child's carers are to work in partnership with both with parents and practitioners, they need to feel that they are sufficiently trusted with sensitive information and regarded as valued members of the team around the child.

3.229 Some of the information which carers need may be difficult or embarrassing; there is also an obvious temptation to withhold negative information about, for instance, a child's past behaviour for fear that carers may not agree to a placement being made, or a child will be unfairly labelled. However, a placement is much more likely to succeed if carers know in advance about behaviours that have been a cause for concern in the past and how these have been successfully (or unsuccessfully) managed. The local authority should inform carers of past behaviours such as fire setting or sexually abusive incidents which might put their home or their family at risk. Failure to do so may place the authority at risk of legal action. Knowing that a previous placement has broken down and why is also important information for carers who have to try to understand how a child is attempting to make sense of difficult and confusing experiences. It will be important to discuss with the child what information needs to be shared and why and how it will contribute to enabling the child to stay safe.

Conclusion and summary

56. A looked after child is a child accommodated by a local authority pursuant to s.20 CA 1989, in the care of a local authority pursuant to s.31 CA 1989, or a child whom a local authority is authorised to place for adoption under s.19/s.20 ACA 2002.
57. Local authorities have duties to prepare plans for the long-term care of children it looks after. It is recognised that the greater the number of placements for a child and the greater the delay in a child being placed in their long-term placement, the greater the risk of harm to the child.

58. Permeating a local authorities duties towards children it is looking after is the need to obtain information on the child and his family to inform its assessment and care planning.
59. On reaching a decision that it is considering adoption for a child, a local authority must as soon as reasonably practicable identify prospective adopters for the child. It must also, if satisfied that it is either inconsistent with the child's welfare or not reasonable practicable to place the child with either their parents, a person with parental responsibility, or connected person, consider making arrangements for them to be looked after by a foster carer who is also an approved prospective adopter.
60. The law provides for the sharing of information as to a child between a local authority and adoption agencies. Where early permanence provisions are being considered, there will need to be sufficient information shared to enable an adoption agency to identify suitable prospective adopters; to enable a local authority, adoption agency and any identified prospective adopters to be satisfied that the placement is suitable; and for those prospective adopters as foster carers to be able to meet the needs of the child as provided for within the care and placement plans.
61. There must be openness and honesty with an individual about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, is necessary unless unsafe or inappropriate to do so. The sharing of information must be necessary and proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely, secure and recorded.
62. The necessity, proportionality and relevance of information sharing will need to be determined on a case by case basis. However, by way of general principle:
- whenever identifying and matching a child with prospective adopters, there is a need for full and frank sharing of information as to material facts pertaining to the background of a child, their life experiences and history, and needs; and
 - for any carers looking after the child it is essential that they have an understanding of the child's background, needs and routines so that they can afford them with reasonable care.
63. It is essential to consult all those concerned with the child before taking any decision in relation to him or her, including ascertaining the wishes and feelings their parents, a person who is not a parent but who had parental responsibility for him or her, and any other person

whose wishes and feelings the authority consider to be relevant; regarding the matters to be decided.

64. The rationale and reasons for a decision to share information, or not share information, with whom the information is shared, and for what purpose, should be recorded. Where possible, consent should be obtained where possible and wishes respected from those who do not consent to having information shared.
65. In the event that there is doubt or disagreement in respect of what information may be shared or with whom information may be shared, the information to be shared this should be discussed with a team manager and potentially legal advice sought.
66. In the event that a parent or individual wishes to raise a specific and reasoned dispute about a particular piece of disclosure Court oversight and adjudication may be required. Such an example may be where a parent fears that their personal, sensitive detail may be disclosed to a prospective adopter. It would be expected that recourse to Courts would be required when it has not been possible to resolve the disagreement.
67. In the event that the child is subject to care proceedings, the views of the children's guardian will need to be sought, parents legal representatives, and the Court will need to be informed of any developments.

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