

Where the permanence panel and the agency decision maker have determined that a child's best interests are to be placed for adoption but for any reason this is no longer the plan, the panel should be advised.

Where the court in care proceedings has declined to make an order supporting the care plan for adoption.

The adoption agency will automatically remove the child's name from the list of children on best interests when advised of the court's decision. The social worker should write to the panel describing the outcome for information only.

Where a child that was awaiting placement now has a permanent fostering placement or where family finding to identify such a placement is underway.

The child's social worker should attend permanency panel having written a short report (not more than one page) under following headings:

- Child's progress since best interests (7 dimensions, placement history contacts etc; wishes and feelings)
- Attempts to find adoptive home (i.e. what was tried)
- Current placement and care plan (why the care plan was changed, where child now living how placement is the best fit for child's needs.)
- Summary reasons why best interest no longer appropriate.

Admin at St Edmund House will then need to attach this to the form E and the previous minutes of panel.

The panel will need to be asked to rescind their previous recommendation and the recommendation will be put to the decision maker for endorsement. It is possible that, where family finding is underway the panel may wish to support a twin track approach, i.e., the child remaining on best interest (since this is the ideal permanence outcome) but acknowledging that this may not be achievable and that the plan for permanent fostering should proceed in parallel.

Reviews of best interests

For certain children (particularly hard to place or older children) the panel may recommend best interests to allow for a focused period of family finding for a limited period after which the matter will be placed on the agenda to review whether adoption is still the best plan for the child.

The documentation required for the review will be the same as for the previous paragraph.

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