

## Care plans, placement plans and permanence plans for children in care

There are three types of plans that families will hear about when a child is in care under a court order. These plans must be prepared. The table below explain more.

Type of plan	What is it for?	What does it cover?	Timeframes
<b>Care plan</b>	A written plan setting out how a looked after child's needs will be met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wishes and feelings of the child and their parents</li> <li>Where the child will live and why this is what's best for them</li> <li>Long-term plans for the child, including timescales (the permanence plan)</li> <li>How the child's needs will be met, including their education, health and developmental needs, including social and emotional development (health plan and personal education plan)</li> <li>Contact arrangements – with their parents, siblings and wider family and friends' network</li> <li>Details of the child's independent reviewing officer.</li> </ul>	Children's services must prepare a care plan in line with the timetable set by the Family Court. While the case is waiting to come before the Family Court, children's services must keep the care plan under review. If changes are needed, they should update the plan. See <a href="#">sections 31A(1) and 31A(2) of the Children Act 1989</a> and <a href="#">regulation 4(2) of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010</a> .
<b>Placement plan</b>	A placement plan is part of the child's care plan. It sets out the detailed arrangements for a <a href="#">looked after child's</a> placement (where they live).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How the <a href="#">placement</a> in which the child is living will contribute to meeting the child's needs identified in the <a href="#">care plan</a>. These needs include health, education, social, behavioral and developmental needs.</li> <li>The financial arrangements for the child's upbringing while in the placement</li> <li>How the child will keep in touch with their parents, brothers and sisters, and other family members</li> <li>What decisions the carer can make about the child's care. For example, in relation to school trips, overnight stays, medical and dental treatment</li> <li>How the carer will maintain any important links relating to the child's religion or culture.</li> </ul>	A placement plan must be prepared within five working days of the placement starting.
<b>Permanence plan</b>	This is a long-term plan for a looked after child's upbringing and living arrangements until they become an adult and are able to live independently.	<p>The permanence plan may explain that the child will live in one of the following long-term placements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The family home, following a planned return</li> <li>A placement with relatives or friends (i.e. kinship care)</li> <li>A foster care placement with unrelated foster carers</li> <li>A placement in residential care (i.e. in a children's home)</li> <li>With adoptive parents.</li> </ul>	Children's services must make a plan for the permanent placement of every looked after child by the second review of their case – so, after four months (see <a href="#">paragraph 2.4 of the Statutory Guidance on Adoption</a> ).