

## Care plans, placement plans and permanence plans for children in the care system under voluntary arrangements

There are three types of plans that families will hear about when a child is in care under a voluntary arrangement. 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>	A care plan must be prepared before the child comes into the care system under a voluntary arrangement. But where this is not possible, children's services must draw up the plan within ten working days of the child becoming looked after (see <a href="#">regulation 4 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010</a> ). But if the voluntary arrangement is being put in place (or continuing) during care proceedings, a timetable for drawing up the care plan will then be set by the Family Court (see regulation 4(2)).
<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> ).