

Concurrent Planning

Providing babies and young children up to the age of 3 years with permanent families as early as possible.

Presented by:

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The Concurrent Planning Service

Concurrency in the North West

The service was established in April 2014 and is a partnership between two OFSTED registered Voluntary Agencies (both outstanding):-

- **Caritas Care** and **Adoption Matters**

Caritas Care is also an Independent Fostering Agency and so holds the fostering registration for all Concurrent Planning Carers.

Working with all 4 RAAs in the region plus 1 local authority

- **Adoption in Merseyside** –
(Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral, Knowsley)
- **Adoption Counts** -
(*Stockport, Manchester, Salford, Trafford, Cheshire East*)
- **Adoption NoW** –
(Blackburn, Oldham, Tameside, Rochdale, Bolton, Bury)
- **Together for Adoption** –
(Warrington, Wigan, St Helen's, Halton, CWAC)
- **Blackpool Council**
- New services currently being developed in the Stoke and Staffordshire, and Yorkshire and Humber regions.

Concurrent Planning

- Child unable to live at home with parents / carers
- Local authority initiates Care Proceedings

Child placed with foster carers
who are also approved as adopters

Plan A
Child to return home

Plan B
Child to be adopted

Court process to decide

Child reunification home

Foster Carers become
Adoptive carers

The child has been cared for by the same carers throughout this time

Concurrent Planning

- All placements have two plans running in parallel; **plan A is rehabilitation**
- All carers are dually approved; placements are made under fostering regulations in the initial phase and all carers are subject to the usual expectations in terms of training and recording.
- Carers transport children to all contacts and hand over to birth parents – this relationship is significant in the long term, should the plan become adoption, for the child's identity, life story and letterbox contact.

Carers Approved

- 86 sets of carers approved
- 30 % Already have children in family
- 13 % single carers
- 10 % LGBT applicants
- 3 sets of carers live in multi generational households
- Low numbers of BME carers
- 10 sets of carers have come back for a second application (2 of these for related sibling)
- 11 Carers have coped with a rehabilitation. 7 returned to concurrent planning (3 sets of carers were able to take children back after rehabilitation broke down at home)
- 2 set of carers moved to domestic adoption
- 2 sets of carers are currently having a period of recovery before considering their future plans

Placements and outcomes

83 children placed with dually approved carers

- Age range of children 1 day – 2 years 7 months
- 40% girls, 60% boys
- 67 % children placed under 6 weeks old.
- All single children to date – though subsequent siblings have been placed with 2 families
- 38 Adoption orders
- 15 subject to Placement Orders / placed for adoption
- 11 Children returned to birth parents or family members
- 3 of those children subsequently returned to care of concurrent carers
- For the rest, assessments and Care Proceedings are on going.
- Several placements proceeded to adoption where significant health issues have been identified during care proceedings.

Contact details / further information

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