

**Securing Permanence Group
Telford and Wrekin *updated May 2013***

Terms of Reference

As Corporate parents with responsibility to support continued improvement in achieving permanence and placement stability the Securing Permanence Group will scrutinize the activity employed to achieve permanence.

The standing group will consist of the Social Care SDMs across Safeguarding and Family Cohesion the Business Manager for data support with legal advice being sought as appropriate .

There will be a focus upon specific cohorts of children in care with the group considering in order of priority:

- Children who have no person exercising parental responsibility due to their legal status eg freeing orders, relinquished children who have not been placed for adoption
- Children subject of a Placement Order for longer than 9 months
- Children subject to Care Orders where the plan is long term fostering but without a match having been agreed
- Children placed with foster carers for longer than 12 months (especially those not long term matched and those with potential for Special Guardianship or Residence Orders)
- Children placed at home with parents for longer than 12 months
- Children placed in external residential care for longer than 12 months

The group will consider the overall care plan for the child, ensuring that there are clear timescales in place and there is evidence of progress through actions This will be achieved by strong tracking and case planning discussion which will include the IRO. The group are charged with identifying barriers for achieving permanence and are responsible for detailing specific actions relating to children's cases as regards to reducing drift and achieving permanency.

Management information is key in terms of developing understanding and identifying issues in the first instance. The SDM for SAS and Business Manager for the Data Team will scrutinize data for each cohort to be then taken to the SPG Group. There will be inbuilt review and tracking where appropriate.

Membership

Representative	Job Title
Jo Britton	SDM Safeguarding Advisory Service
Maria White	SDM ACM and CIC
Helen Smith	Business Support and Information Manager
Angela Yapp	SDM Placements
Diane Partridge	SDM Childrens Specialist Services

Meetings

Meetings to take place on a monthly basis.

Accountability

The SPG will report to the Senior Leadership Team.

Monitoring and Review

A spreadsheet will be used for tracking individual children
Targets and an action plan for each financial year will be put in place
Quarterly reports will be produced for Budget Scrutiny