

Comparison of Permanence Options

	Connected Persons Foster Care	Long Term Fostering	Child Arrangement Order	Special Guardianship Order	Adoption
		<i>Refer to Procedures for long-term linking with foster carers</i>	<i>Refer to Child Arrangements Order Policy</i>	<i>Refer to Special Guardianship Policy</i>	<i>Refer to Adoption Policy Statement</i>
Route into the caring arrangement	<p>The child has been placed with the relative or friend by the local authority, because the person who had been caring for the child was deemed not to be providing suitable care.</p> <p>The child may be accommodated voluntarily with the agreement of the parents (s20) or may be subject to a Care Order.</p> <p>The child is a looked after child and so the local authority must approve the relative or friend as a local authority foster carer.</p>	<p>The child is accommodated by the local authority, either with agreement of the parents (s20) or may be subject to a Care Order; and has been placed with a foster carer by the local authority.</p>	<p>The child is subject to a legal order regulating the arrangements relating to whom the child lives with and has contact with.</p>	<p>The child may be at risk of coming into care, and a friend or relative applies for an order, or the child may be in care and their foster carer or other relative/ friend applies for a Special Guardianship Order.</p> <p>In either circumstance, application can be made without the support of the parents or the local authority. Relatives may apply for an order after the child has lived with them for one year, or if given leave of the court to apply for an SGO.</p> <p>Applications for SGO can also be made where there is no Social Care involvement e.g. after death of a parent and in line with a prior agreement between</p>	<p>For some children in care, where reunification or placement with extended family is not viable, the LA may decide that the child should be placed for adoption.</p> <p>Only possible with consent of the birth parent or under a Placement Order made by a court.</p> <p>A foster carer can apply for an adoption order after one year of caring for the child.</p> <p>Other informal carers could apply for an adoption order if the child has lived with them for a period of 3 years or with leave of the court.</p>

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				parent and carer.	
Parental responsibility (PR)	Remains with birth parents if the child is accommodated under section 20, or if the child is subject to a Care Order, the local authority shares parental responsibility and determines the extent to which it may be delegated to others.	Remains with birth parents if the child is accommodated under section 20, or if the child is subject to a Care Order, the local authority shares parental responsibility and determines the extent to which it may be delegated to others.	Shared by parents and the holder of the Child Arrangements Order.	PR shared between the Special Guardian and the parents, and anyone else with parental responsibility for the child. The special guardian may exercise parental responsibility to the exclusions of all others with PR, apart from another special guardian. Limitations include taking child out of the country or changing the child's name.	Transfers to the adoptive parents and legal relationship with birth parents is severed permanently.
Approval basis	Approved as local authority foster carers in accordance with Fostering Services Regulations. (If the child is looked after, carers must be approved as foster carers even if close relative).	Approved as local authority foster carers in accordance with Fostering Services Regulations.	Appointed by court following application	Appointed by court following application from the applicant. LA must investigate the matter and prepare a report for the court dealing with the suitability of the applicant to be a special guardian.	The adoption agency assesses and approves prospective adopters, court makes Placement Order regarding specific child. If the child is not a looked after then notice of intention to adopt must be given to the LA who then complete a report for the court.

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Duration	So long as a placement remains in line with the child's care plan as determined by LA or the making of an alternative order (unless section 20 when parents have the right to remove the child from care.)	So long as a placement remains in line with the child's care plan as determined by LA or the making of an alternative order (unless section 20 when parents have the right to remove the child from care.)	Expires at 18.	Until age 18 unless varied or discharged by the court before the child reaches 18 years.	Permanent/ lifelong.
Placement supervision	Statutory visits to the child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker.	Statutory visits to the child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker.	None.	None.	When a child is placed for adoption by the LA, the placement is supervised and there are statutory reviews. Once the adoption order is made, none.
Support services	Support to meet the child's needs including health plan and personal education plan (PEP). Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with the Fostering Services Regulations, National Minimum Standards and	Support to meet the child's needs including health plan and personal education plan (PEP). Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with the Fostering Services Regulations, National Minimum Standards and	No entitlement (but LA has discretion to provide services/ support for child/ family under section 17 Children Act 1989).	If child was looked after prior to making the SGO, LA must assess for need with special guardianship support services. LA has discretion whether to provide support in accordance with Regulations and National Minimum Standards.	Entitlement to assessment for adoption support services, which may be provided at discretion of LA in accordance with Regulations and National Minimum Standards. "Three-year rule" applies where for first three years, it is the placing authority who

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	<p>Children's workforce Development Council standards.</p> <p>Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services.</p> <p>Statutory social worker Placement support to meet the child's identified need.</p>	<p>Children's workforce Development Council standards.</p> <p>Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services. Statutory social worker.</p> <p>Placement support to meet the child's identified need</p>		<p>Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services if a looked after child prior to making of the SGO.</p> <p>If the young person was looked after prior to the order being made they are eligible for support from the Adoption Support Fund.</p> <p>"Three-year rule" applies where for first three years, it is the placing authority who is responsible and after first three years it is the local authority in which the child resides.</p> <p>If child was NOT looked after prior to making the SGO, there is no automatic entitlement to an assessment of support needs. If an assessment is requested, this can be provided at the LA's discretion.</p>	<p>is responsible and after first three years it is the local authority in which the child resides.</p>

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Financial support - entitlement	<p>Child benefit or other universally available benefits for children is not payable.</p> <p>Weekly fee payable as well as an allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child.</p>	<p>Child benefit or other universally available benefits for children is not payable.</p> <p>Weekly fee payable as well as an allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child.</p>	<p>Can claim child benefit and any other universally available benefits for children if not being paid to the parent.</p>	<p>Can claim child benefit and any other universally available benefits for children if not being paid to the parent.</p> <p>Entitlement to assessment for financial support (part of SGO support) if child looked after prior to order.</p>	<p>Can claim child benefit and any other universally available benefits for children if not being paid to the parent.</p> <p>Entitlement to assessment for financial support (part of adoption support) if child looked after prior to order.</p>
Financial support - discretionary			<p>LA has discretion to pay Child Arrangements order allowance – usually if child was previously fostered by the carers, or exceptionally if making Child Arrangements Order prevents child becoming looked after.</p> <p>Any allowance paid is means tested annually.</p>	<p>Entitled to an assessment for financial support under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 if child looked after prior to order and meets the criteria in the regulations.</p> <p>Subject to assessment as above and for former foster carers can include an element of remuneration (fee).</p> <p>Discretionary regular or one-off payments. Any allowance paid is means tested annually.</p>	<p>Subject to assessment, <i>one off</i> payments or regular adoption allowance may be paid.</p>

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Stay in touch with family	<p>As set out in the care plan with details of frequency and supervision clarified.</p> <p>LA has a duty to promote contact with the child's family.</p>	<p>As set out in the care plan with details of frequency and supervision clarified.</p> <p>LA has a duty to promote contact with the child's family.</p>	<p>Private agreement.</p> <p>Or as defined by the court or discretion of the person with PR.</p>	<p>Agreed as part of SGO Support Plan or at discretion of the SG with PR.</p> <p>May be subject to a section 8 contact order.</p>	<p>As agreed as part of the Adoption Support Plan and Care Plan approved by the court.</p> <p>Legally at the discretion of the adopter.</p> <p>Very rarely, may be subject to a Contact Order.</p>