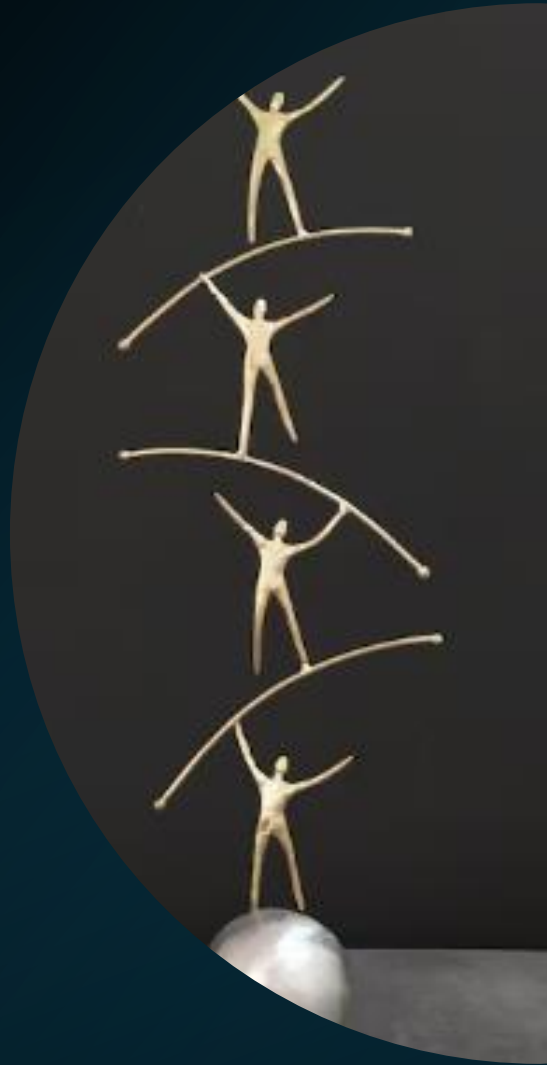


How best to support Early Permanence Carers during placement

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Aim of the Day

In this session we aim to provide insight into key **Relationships**, the **Communications** shared, and the **Impact** these will have during Early Permanence placements.



Sculpt

Who is involved ?



Relationships: **Childs** **social worker**

- Responsibility for keeping parents informed and being open and transparent about the EP plan
- Childs planning
- Assessments of family members
- Identifying appropriate EP carers with support from Adoption SW by considering PARS
- Share basic information with EP carers to enable decision making
- Meet EP carers
- Attend 'selection meeting'
- Liaising with family time worker/set up
- Support parent carer meeting
- Complete Reg 25a – child SW and Adoption worker
- Placement paperwork – DA, Placement Info record
- Sharing updates re care proceedings
- Updating other professionals via reviews stat visits care team meetings



**Relationships:
Supervising
social worker**

Monitoring and supervising of the foster placement including:

- Finance- allowances and payments
- Family time, supporting practicalities
- Expectations of the carer role
- Training and support with an awareness of already completed sessions
- Paperwork
- Contribute to meetings




Relationships:
Legal guardian

- Support the legal planning for the child
- Give explanation of the legal process to EP carer
- Liaise with child's social worker re documentation
- Meet the child in placement at least twice



Relationships:
Independent
reviewing officer

- Consideration to be given re confidentiality of placement in relation to carer
- Inclusion of carer in reviews
- Visits carers home
- To help carer understand the process for the child's planning



Relationships:
Family time
supervisor

- Engage with birth family to feel at ease with carers
- Support the handovers safely
- Encourage to use communication book
- Give updates to carer after session
- Manage carer / parent dynamic



Relationships: Health visitor

- Home visits as and when needed alongside stat visits
- Include parents and carers
- Support carer in practicalities of caring for baby / young child – possible they've never done it before
- Timing of visits



Relationships: **Carers network**

- Offering practical support – ensuring the SSW is aware
- Emotional support, especially from EP carers in the same role, lived experience that is different from friends and family
- Possible back up carers
- Other EP carers- though support group



Relationships:
Adoption
social worker

- Support in the decision making
- Have long standing knowledge & relationship with the carers
- Offer emotional support and reassurance
- Support practically in meetings
- Help their understanding of the roles in the process
- Support parent meeting and encourage packages of care
- Family time support especially first one

Communication

What?

- The difference - at onset known info should be shared so that carer can make an informed decision – e.g. why this child
- Needs to be **facts** - not presumptions
- Progress of child's plan as moving towards final hearing, **however** not the 'thoughts' surrounding this
- Consideration to be given to over sharing / timescales
- What would you share with non-EP carers?

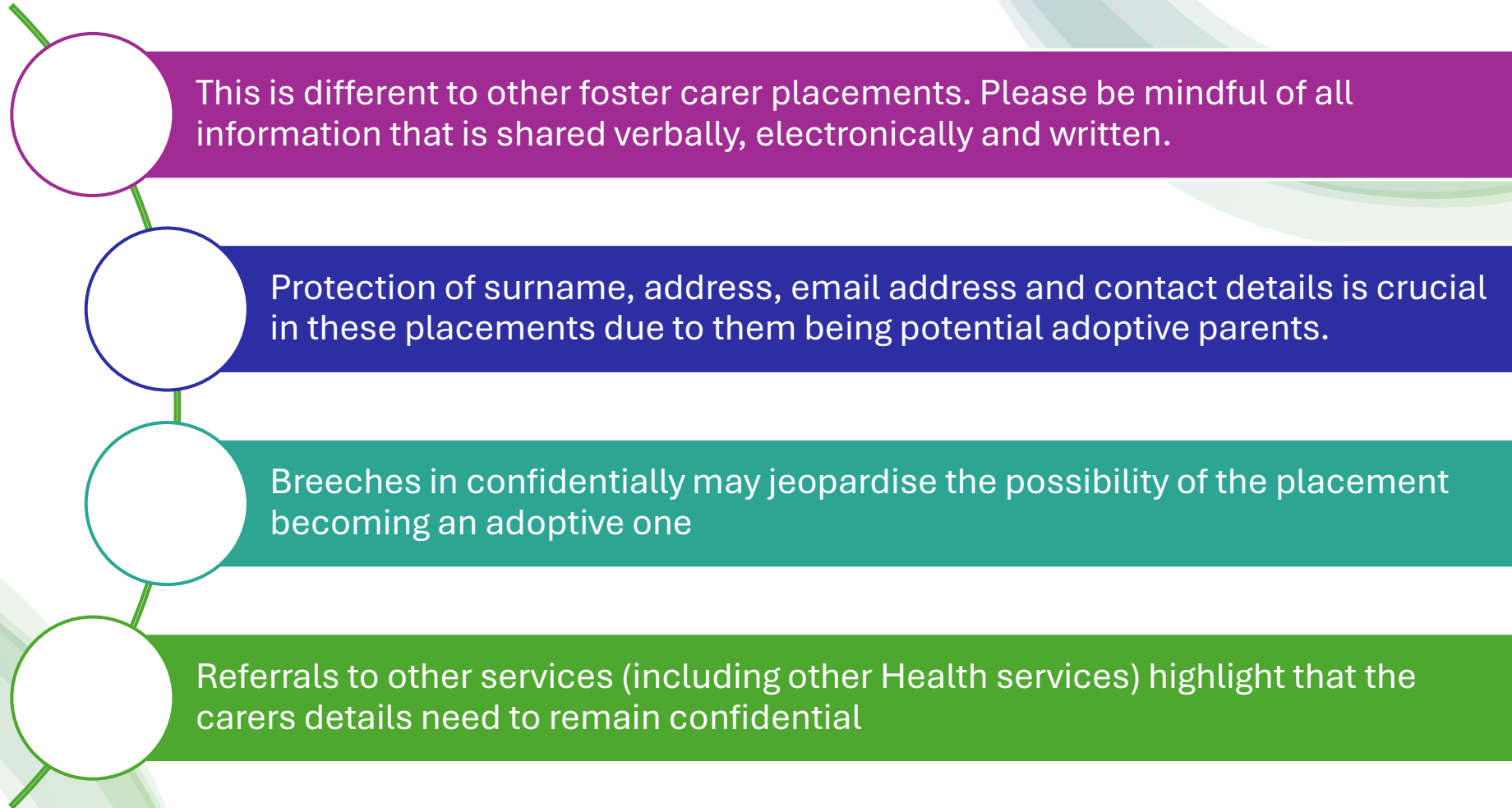
How?

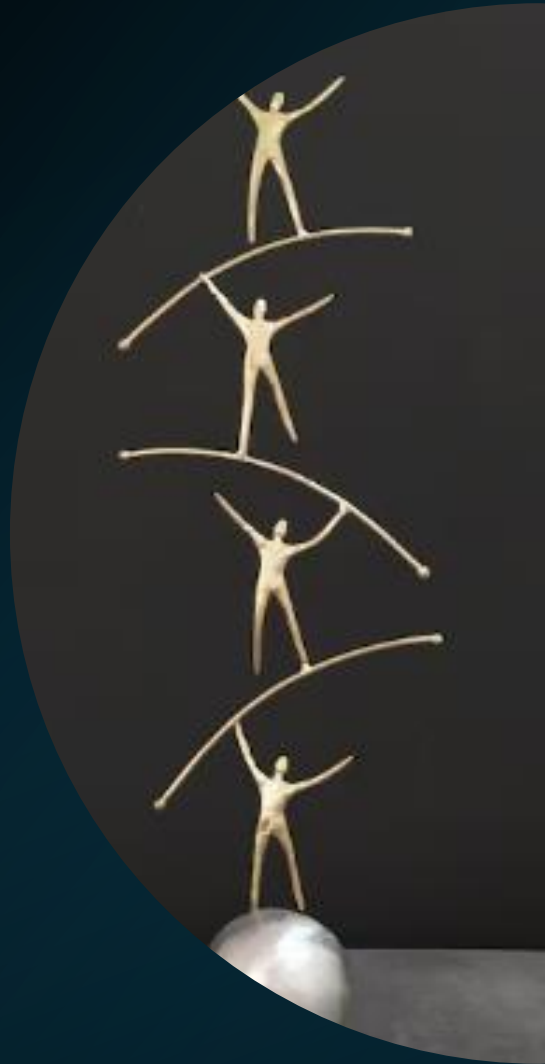
- Labels – this is very important to an EP placement
- Emails – professional threads inc carers
- **When** information is shared can also be important
- Verbal info or text, face to face or phone call

Who?

- Adoption social worker knows the carers significantly
- Sharing with other professionals prior to carer and deciding how to share collectively
- If emotive info is shared carer will need support to understand the impact of this

Confidentiality





Sculpt

Any reflections from the Sculpt exercise at the beginning?

Early Permanence Carer

“ The support from yourself and the group especially in the early days of EP was invaluable. It helped us feel like part of a community with people who have an understanding of what we feel like, and hearing other people’s perspectives on their experiences made us feel less alone on our journey. It helped to boost our strength to face the uncertainties of EP. ”

“ I can tell him when he first smiled, sat up, crawled, said mama and really belly laughed. I can't think of a better start in life for him. ”

Sibling of an EP baby placed

“ We can talk to our son and daughter with genuine sincerity that we met their birth parents, that we knew them, and that we saw first hand how much they loved them and wanted the very best for them; that they had had to make some very difficult decisions; that they trusted us. ”

“ When it was time to say our goodbyes birth mum did get emotional, we all did have a hug which was lovely, such a positive feeling too, we aren't against each other - that we are all here to help this baby and the baby is the centre of everything. ”

**“ This was challenging at times,
but all in the best interests of the
little girl at the heart of the
process - and we wouldn't have
had it any other way. ”**

“ We chose foster to adopt as it felt like a really great option for the child. Less moves, less people for them to have to learn to trust and form attachments to, that could come and go from their lives. We felt that we would have our child's whole life story too. We would have as much information for them as possible and mostly first hand. In our experience we got to meet birth mum and gain a relationship with her that benefitted her, us and our child. We gained a perspective on birth family we might not have got from the traditional adoption route.”

“ Our child got to experience the love of his birth mother and our love along side one another. So, when contact ended it was less stressful for him. We got to be his constant in an ever changing situation. At times the experience was difficult and lot to manage, we had regular meetings, contact sessions and medicals and life was pretty busy for us but so worth it. We would 100% recommend foster to adopt to anyone. We feel incredibly lucky to say we have got to experience all of our son's first moments, our son's whole story and got to gain a relationship with his birth mum. ”

“ We chose early permanence in order to give a child the best possible start to life, no matter how long they stayed with us and also with the possibility of adopting the child from a young age. It was not an easy process but it was 100% worth it. If you are considering an early permanence placement we would say it is important to have a strong network around you for support. We feel it helped to have a 'go with the flow' attitude, as things change all of the time and no two days are the same.”

“ We were very keen to be approved for Foster to Adopt, firstly because it increased our chances of having a very young baby placed with us, but also because we could see the benefit to the child in being placed in their forever home at the first / earliest opportunity. We were matched with our son before he was born and he arrived at our home at three days old. The fact that we have been able to be part of his life since the very beginning is wonderful.”

“The most difficult part was "handing him over" for contact through the first six months or so. We understood the importance of that process, but that didn't make it easy. It was also hard to ignore entirely the risk that he might not stay with us forever, even though we knew it was very likely he would. That said, all the challenges were worthwhile to have given our son the most stable start to life, and to have been his family from the very beginning.”

Thank you

Any questions?