



Gwasanaeth
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Cenedlaethol | **Adoption**
Service



WELSH EARLY PERMANENCE

Information for Parents

WELSH EARLY PERMANENCE PLACEMENTS
FOR CHILDREN IN CARE PROCEEDINGS



We strongly advise you to discuss this leaflet with your solicitor, who will be able to talk to you about this type of foster placement. If we know of your solicitor, we will have sent information about Welsh Early Permanence framework to them, including this leaflet.

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

If you are reading this, it probably means that your local authority has plans for care proceedings where decisions will be made about your child's future. This information leaflet is to tell you about a service called Welsh Early Permanence for young children and their parents in Wales when they are facing care proceedings, and is an option that will be considered for your child.

What is Welsh Early Permanence?

This is a foster placement with a family that has been approved both as foster carers and as adoptive parents. Your child will live with Welsh Early Permanence carers whilst all options are being explored. These families are committed to children being reunited with their parents if this is possible. However, if the court decides that your child cannot return home to you or live with another member of your family, these carers are ready to offer your child the security of adoption without having to face another move.

Why is it being considered for my child?

We know that lots of moves for children is extremely unsettling for them and especially if they have to move again while waiting for decisions to be made. The aim of Welsh Early Permanence is to reduce the number of moves and changes children have while living away from their parents so that the child has the best possible care while their long-term future is decided by the court.

What does it mean for me?

You will be kept up to date with what is happening and be given opportunities to provide evidence that you will be able to keep your child safe and provide them with a secure home for them to grow up in. If that isn't possible the next choice is for the child to be cared for by another member of your family. If the court decides that your child cannot return to you or to a member of your extended family, then it is very likely that the court will decide that adoption is the best plan for your child. You are entitled to legal representation during these proceedings and it is important that you access this.

Will I still see my child?

During the care proceedings, you will have regular supervised contact with your child and a contact plan agreed by the court will be drawn up and shared with you.

Once the court has decided on the care plan for your child, the contact arrangements will change. If the court decides that your child is to be returned to you or to another member of your family, then the contact arrangements will work towards reunification.

If the court decides that your child should be adopted, another contact plan will be drawn up to detail what kind of contact you will have as your child moves towards adoption. Your child's social worker will always be thinking about your child's needs when they are putting together these plans.

Who decides whether my child should be adopted or not?

In all cases, the court will decide whether your child can return to you or to another member of your family on the basis of evidence from you and from reports and evidence from social workers, the Children's Guardian, and any other professionals who have been asked to do an assessment or give an opinion.

What could happen to my child and what does it mean for them?

If the court decides that your child should be returned to you or placed with a member of your family, then the carers will help with that move alongside your child's social worker.

If the court decides that adoption is the best plan for your child, then the carers who have been looking after your child would go on to become the adopters. That way, your child would have the security of adoption without an upsetting move to a new family and home.

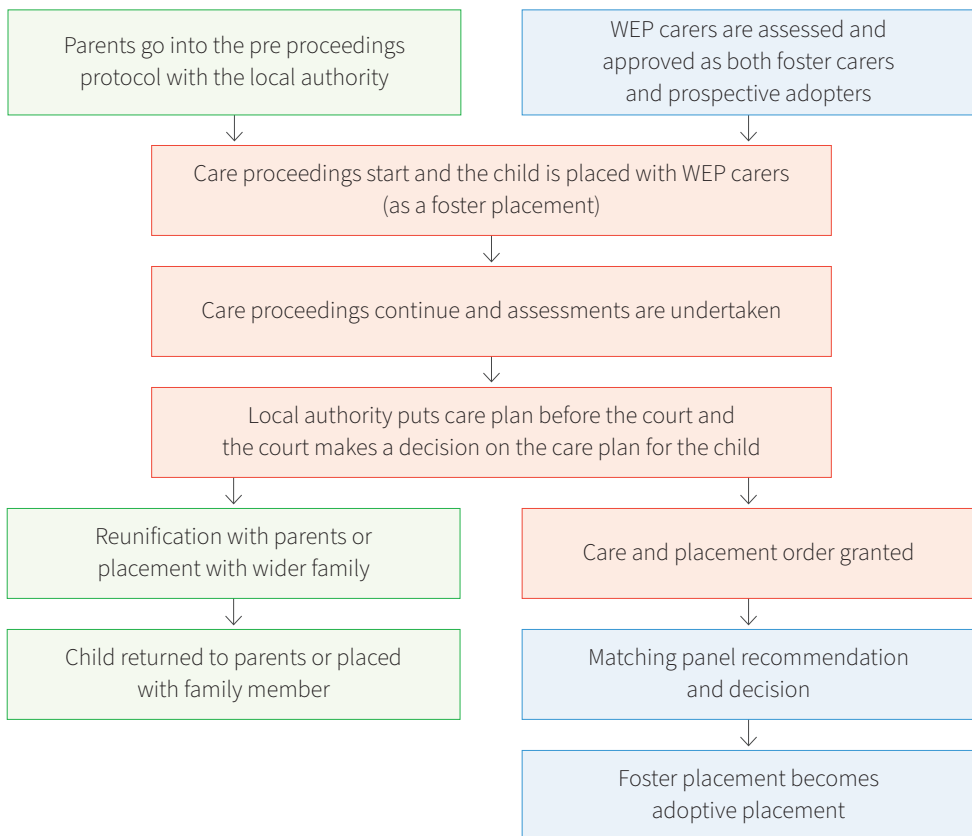
How are Welsh Early Permanent carers selected and are they well prepared?

Welsh Early permanence carers are very well prepared and carefully assessed. They will be carefully matched with your child based on the information we know about them and your child so it is important for you to share any information that will help them offer the best care they can to your child eg any family health issues, or important relationships.

They will understand that your child might not remain with them and will be committed to support reunification to you or another family member if this is what the court decides.

We know this is a difficult and upsetting time for you and it will be hard for you to think about your child not living with you. We are hoping that you will be able to meet your child's carers during contact visits we hope you would feel confident that they would give your child the love and security he or she needs. We also hope that you would feel that the carers' respect and understand you and will be able to tell the child about you and your love for him or her.

This diagram sets out the process for care proceedings and the role of the WEP foster carer



You might have other questions about Welsh Early Permanence we haven't answered, and we strongly advise you to discuss this leaflet with your solicitor, who will be able to talk to you about this type of foster placement.

For more information please visit:
www.adoptcymru.com/welsh-early-permanence-framework