

Pause & Reflect Process Map

Pause & Reflect (PAR) is a 28 day home offered to a child in the event that no mainstream fostering homes can be identified. This period enables the care planning for the child to take place, ongoing family finding, and a period for the child to settle and for professionals to 'get to know' them.

MHMP Submitted to ART/In-House Fostering Family Finding

The MHMP should outline clearly what type of home you are searching for. A PAR home cannot be searched for as an initial home for a child, all mainstream options must be exhausted before a PAR home can be considered.



MHMP Received by ART and shared with In-House Fostering Family Finding

ART will screen the MHMP to ensure all information required is contained within the form and then reassign to In-House Fostering for allocation.

The In-House Fostering Team Manager will allocate the search to a family finder to start the mainstream fostering search. ART will search for children over the age of 8, parent and child homes, children with complex health needs, where the location requested is outside of Lancashire, brothers and sisters of 3 or more where the children need to live together, or when agreement has been given by the Fostering Senior Manager for ART to start a search for children who fall outside of this criteria.



Fostering Search will commence

The Family Finder allocated to the search will contact all foster carers who are a suitable match for the child and will share any offers with the CSW and TM.

A Teams chat will be set up as a 'Same Day Chat', if the child requires a home on the same day the MHMP is received. This will include all relevant professionals involved in the search.

HoS approval is required to complete the search for a same day home.

Whilst searching for a home, in addition to contacting available carers with information on the MHMP, the Family Finder will also request a pen profile for the child which will be sent to all mainstream foster carers as an "Ask for Help" email.



No homes are identified in the timescale that the child needs to move.

If no homes are identified in the timescale that the child needs to move, a decision will be made by the Senior Manager for Fostering on whether a Pause & Reflect Carer can be contacted.

This should only be considered when all fostering searches have concluded and identified no options for a child. This is typically completed on the day that a child requires a home as matching to a PAR carer cannot be held for any period of time due to the demand for this type of home.

The fostering family finder will contact the PAR carer, and if accepted, a matching email will be shared with all the relevant information about the match. The matching email will extend to SCAYT+ to ensure their oversight and support of the home.



PAR home accepted

The Social Worker/Team Manager for the child should complete Part B of the matching form and return this to the In-House Fostering Family Finding Team.

The Family Finder will complete an advice line request for support for that same evening for the carer.

On the day of the child moving into the home the CSW will provide the Placement Plan and Risk Assessment for the child to the foster carer

Arrangements for PAR set up meeting will commence (this must be held within 2 days of the PAR home starting)



To be completed by Day 2 of the PAR

The PAR set up meeting will be held within 2 days of the child moving in and will be chaired by the Child's Team Manager. The meeting should include the Foster Carer, Supervising Social Worker & Team Manager, Childs Social Worker & Team Manager, Fostering Family Finding Team Manager, Family Finder, ART, SCAYT. Other professionals who are relevant to the care planning for the child may be invited such as education, IRO service, and health. Parents should also be invited to the meeting and the child may also wish to attend.

The SCAYT+ worker will complete an initial screening tool during the meeting, if further support is identified from SCAYT+ the social worker will need to complete the referral on the day of the set-up meeting to ensure timely support is implemented.

The child specific safer caring document will be updated and provided to the Foster Carer prior or during this meeting

The MHMP will be updated and reassigned to the CLA Placements Tray so that family finding for the child can continue.

Support throughout the PAR arrangement

The Supervising Social Worker will complete weekly visits to the PAR home with one visit being an Unannounced Visit where the child is seen and spoken with alone.

The Childs Social Worker will also complete weekly visits to the PAR home

SCAYT+ support will be considered at each meeting to consider if this is required

Consideration to Outreach Support should be given if there is a plan for the child to return to their family

Consideration should also be given to a referral to the Resilience & Stability Fostering Support Worker for support

The foster carer will provide feedback on how the child has settled into their home and their observations of the child and their personality. This feedback is to be incorporated into the MHMP



Review of PAR arrangement

Weekly meetings will take place between the setting up and week 3 of the PAR arrangement to consider the needs of the child and the next steps to identify a home. These meetings will be chaired by the Childs Team Manager and will include the Foster Carer, Supervising Social Worker & Team Manager, Child's Social Worker & Team Manager, Fostering Family Finder, ART. Any other professionals. Any other professionals involved with the PAR arrangement such as SCAYT and outreach should be invited. If no direct sessions are being completed, SCAYT+ workers will seek to attend at least one multi-agency meeting regarding the child. If invited but unable to attend additional meetings, a written update regarding SCAYT+ involvement will be provided.

In week 4 of the PAR arrangement, if a home has been identified and planning and introductions are underway, review meetings will take place 3 times that week and remain at Team Manager level.

In week 4 of the PAR arrangement, if no next home has been identified, the review meetings will be held daily and Senior Managers for both the child and the foster carer should attend to ensure quick decision making and planning.