

CLA 0-12 & Adoption Service

Family Finding Standards

1. **When adoption is being considered as a possible plan** (contingency or otherwise).an early discussion between CLA 0-12 and Adoption Teams must take place within 2 weeks to offer advice on an adoption plan and enable the child to be held in mind by the Adoption Team in its recruitment and assessment of adopters.
2. **When adoption becomes the permanence plan** (formally at a statutory review or agreed by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) outside this process), a detailed Referral Meeting should be held within 3 weeks including the child's carer and/or supervising social worker.
3. **A Family Finder will be allocated** at least 2 weeks prior to the Adoption Panel considering a decision for adoption and attend the relevant panel.
4. **The allocated Family Finder will attend all Looked After Reviews (LAC Review)** or send written updates to the IRO if agreed and more appropriate (perhaps given the child's age and understanding).
5. **The CLA 0-12 Team should make every effort to gain parental consent** for advertising and National Adoption Register registration as early as possible and appropriate in the Care Proceedings (e.g. failed rehabilitation mother not contesting plan for adoption).
6. **Following the decision for adoption** consideration will be given to all possible Southwark adopters and those within SLAC (by non-identifying information sharing)
7. **In good time before the final hearing the Family Finder should make all preparations** for a child to be promoted for adoption the next working day after making of a Placement Order unless good reason otherwise (e.g. child's age).

Month post Placement Order	Process	Purpose and/or Frequency
- 1	Family Finding Meeting	
1 -3	Family Finding Meetings	Minimum 1
3	First LAC Review	Consider all FF activity in detail
4-6	Family Finding Meetings	Minimum 1 consider actions from LAC Review
6	Audit	Thorough review – worker to be met with
7	Activity agreed by audit	
8	2 nd LAC Review	Detailed scrutiny of all FF activity, audit and actions
9 - 12	Family Finding Meetings	Minimum 1 consider actions from LAC Review
13	LAC Review	Thorough review – contingency plan to be formally considered – Service Manager to agree further steps, audits, plans, meetings