Tackling Drift- A Framework for Permanence Planning
Research – Implications for policy and practice (Ward H et al)

- Impact of delay in decision making
- Greater understanding of child development, attachment and impact of maltreatment and neglect
- Parental capacity to change within timescales
- Engaging potentially abusive parents/effective interventions?
- Robust written agreements with parents
- Clearer evidenced reports
Perth & Kinross Context

- Partnership working
- Management Information of Looked After Children
- Research information
Permanence Framework

Permanence Planning Flow Chart

- **Child is Accommodated**
  - Accommodation check to be completed
  - **Initial LAC Review**
    - Within 7 days
      - Working agreement completed
      - Contact agreement
    - **6 week LAC Review**
      - Core Assessment Completed
      - Recommendation re Assessment
    - **6 Weekly LAC Review**
      - Working agreements to be completed and reviewed
  - **Assessment Completed between 6 months and 1 year**
    - Return Home
    - Adoption
    - Permanent Fostering
    - Permanence in Kinship Care
  - **Form E to be completed**
    - Fostering and Permanence Panel
      - 12 weeks

Education & Children’s Services - Perth & Kinross Council
What is CIAM?

Multi-disciplinary team – Health, Adult and Child Care Social Work

Aims:
- Improving methods and time-scales for decision making – children’s timescales
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for children and parents
- Evaluating and cascading best practice learning

Outcomes expected
- Related to SHANARRI outcomes
- Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected/Responsible, Included
Change is a Must Model

Clear Contracts of work

Reflective Work with parents

Relapse Prevention

Parenting Support

Flexible, practical & intensive multi disciplinary support

Health Support & Advice

Individual Work With Children
Framework for Parenting Assessments

- Carer’s own relationship history
- Characteristics of caregiving environment
- Internal working model, adaptations to survive

REFLECTION

OBSERVATION OF CAREGIVING ENVIRONMENT

ASSESSMENT OF ATTACHMENT BEHAVIOUR
Findings: *does adult attachment theory provide a framework to inform how parents’ own life experiences/relationships impact on their parenting capacity?*

Improvement for parents in:
- Self awareness
- Ability to make links between past experiences and current behaviour
- Some of the parents’ adult relationships
- Parents’ ability to be mindful of their child

Improvements for practitioners in:
- Feeling more informed and confident in evidencing parenting capacity
- This led to earlier decision making

Both parents and practitioners found:
- The structure of the assessment framework was helpful
Documentary Evidence

Standards met in Adult Attachment Reports

Standards met in Other Reports
Training and consultancy

- Development of a practitioners’ group on Adult attachment Approach (Action Learning Set)
- Consultancy offered to practitioners on framework for assessments and writing Form E’s
- Advanced training in AA theory for those involved in undertaking full parenting capacity assessments
- Fieldwork staff offered opportunity to be conversant with the AA screening process, applicable to all work with parents

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Contact Numbers

- Linda Richards – email LR Richards@pkc.gov.uk
- Catriona Rioch – email CWRioch@pkc.gov.uk