

After the parenting capacity assessment

After the parenting capacity assessment is completed, recommendations are made about your child's future care.

If the recommendation is that your child should return to your care then services will support you and the carers to manage the transition process in a way that meets the child's needs. You will receive support from services after the return of your child to ensure that positive change is sustained and built upon.

If the recommendation is that your child cannot return to you, then the carers will be supported to adopt the child.

Supports will be available to help you make a positive contribution to the adoption plan.

Can I seek legal advice?

You are fully entitled to seek legal advice from qualified solicitors at any/every stage of the process.

Who should I contact for further information about concurrent planning?

Services for Children, Young People & Families
Education & Children's Services
Perth & Kinross Council
Almondbank House
Lewis Place
PERTH
PH1 3BD

Tel **01738 472260**
www.pkc.gov.uk



Concurrent Planning in Perth and Kinross

Information for Birth Parents

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

If you are a birth parent reading this leaflet then it is likely that your child is not living with you or you will know that the local authority plans for the child to be looked after by carers while decisions are made about long term plans. You might be feeling confused, upset, angry and worried about what will happen to your child. The purpose of this leaflet is to provide you with some information about your involvement in planning for your child's future.

What is concurrent planning?

If your child has a concurrent care plan, this means that from birth he/she will be fostered by concurrent carers while you undertake a parenting capacity assessment to determine if the child can return permanently to your care. There are two possible outcomes with a concurrent care plan.

Either:

- *your child returns to you and is brought up by you;*

or

- *your child cannot return you and will go on to be adopted by the concurrent carers who fostered him/her.*

This decision is made after a parenting capacity assessment is completed.

How will my child benefit from concurrent planning?

- *Stable and secure placement from birth during assessment period.*
- *more likely to develop secure attachment pattern.*
- *Gives the child the best opportunity to be brought up by you.*
- *You get the opportunity to meet the carers.*
- *Risk and uncertainty moves from the child to the adults.*

If your child doesn't return to your care then he/she will stay with the family that fostered them. This means that there will be no need for your child to move and get used to an entirely new family that you've never met.

What happens in a parenting capacity assessment?

You are likely to start a parenting capacity assessment before the baby is born, and this can continue for up to 14 weeks after the birth.

Social work services take overall responsibility for planning, delivering and reviewing the parenting capacity assessment.

Intensive support from a range of services, including social work, health visitor, drug and alcohol, and mental health (if appropriate) will be provided to you.

The parenting capacity assessment aims for 3-4 meetings a week with parents and can include a mix of:

- *individual sessions with social work using an adult attachment approach;*
- *individual sessions with drug and alcohol or/and mental health workers if appropriate;*

- *home visits, announced and unannounced;*
- *support and advice from health professionals about how to meet your child's health needs;*
- *contact sessions with your child supervised and assessed by social work services.*

Who looks after the child while the assessment is taking place?

Your child will be fostered by concurrent carers who receive additional training and intensive support about how to provide the best care possible to a new born baby while the parenting capacity assessment is taking place.

Where possible, you will be given the opportunity to meet the carers before the baby is born. The carers will attend Reviews, Children's Hearings and other meetings that are relevant to your child's overall wellbeing.

Will I see my child during the assessment?

You will have contact with your child during the parenting capacity assessment. The purpose of contact is to promote your child's wellbeing and development. This includes supporting you and the child to develop a secure relationship with each other.

Contact will take place as often and for as long as is best for your child. This decision is usually taken by a Children's Hearing.

If contact is assessed to be beneficial to the child then it can be increased. The carers will transport the child to and from contact sessions.

Contact will be supervised and assessed by a social worker in a neutral venue.