

PERMANENT CARERS

INTRODUCTION

The department has recognised that there are a small group of children who are unlikely to go onto adoption, Special Guardianship or Residence Orders but who see their foster carers as providing care to them throughout their childhood. The department believes that these placements could be enhanced and strengthened by giving the foster carers a permanent status.

PROCEDURE

When it has been agreed that a placement is permanent

- **The foster carer will have the following delegated powers:-**
 - To agree overnight stays
 - To agree day school trips
 - To make routine medical and dental appointments
 - To agree with the child and the school which GCSE's, AS and A2 subjects and other courses will be followed by the child.
 - To arrange the exact timing of contact with the child's family.
 - To assist and promote the child's career choices.

- **The foster carer will not be able :-**
 - To change the frequency of contact without consultation with the Department.
 - To consent to a general anaesthetic.
 - To change the child's school without consulting with the Department
 - To change the child's name
 - To consent to trips abroad
 - To end the child's placement without giving 28 days notice.

- **The Department**
 - Will agree not to make major changes to the care plan for the child without consulting with the child and the foster carer and without the permission of the Permanency Panel.